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No. 23

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 28, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Oh, Lord, You have examined me and You know me through and through. You discern even my thoughts from afar."

It is our nature, Lord God of heaven and earth, to hold us in Your living presence always. It is our nature to think of You or think of others only momentarily. So fixed on ourselves. So limited are we.

Be with each of us, that we may be our very best, and prove ourselves worthy of Your love and Your grace. Be with Congress and its work and deliberations today, that this government may merit the trust of the American people and manifest the strength of the democracy to the nations of the world.

Without You, O Lord, we can do nothing. With You and in You we can establish a kingdom of peace, goodness and justice now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 17, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 17, 2006, at 1:45 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 345.
With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a year ago we were filled with hope that the proposed United Nations Human Rights Council would correct the deep-

ly flawed human rights mechanisms in that body. We thought that once and for all repressive regimes would be held accountable for their crimes.

However, our hopes were quickly dashed last Thursday when the latest proposal for the new Human Rights Council was made public. Rather than taking the time to do something constructive, to make things right, the international community chose consensus over substance. There was a race to the lowest common denominator. And the result? A flawed proposal which empowers dictatorships while weakening democratic countries such as the United States and Israel.

Much more work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker. We must ensure that the new council is not mere cosmetic changes, but true reform. Let us support our U.S. Ambassador, John Bolton, by rejecting this so-called reform. It is nothing but a farce.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION IGNORES THE LAW ON SECURING OUR PORTS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration should have never approved a deal to allow the United Arab Emirates to operate at least six major U.S. ports. The administration claims it went through the proper process in approving the deal, but the administration did not conduct a 45-day investigation that is legally required. It would be nice if someone over at the White House would actually read the laws passed here in Congress.

If the Bush administration had done its homework, they would have discovered that a 45-day investigation is mandatory in cases like this where the company is controlled by a foreign government and the acquisition could affect our national security.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Had Congress not expressed outrage with the plan, a 45-day investigation would not be taking place today. However, investigation is simply not enough. I have absolutely no confidence that the Bush administration will conduct a proper investigation without pressure from Congress. Democrats and Republicans here in the House must stand against this proposal. We already know our ports are vulnerable. We should not add to that vulnerability by turning our port operations over to another country.

OUR ECONOMY IS DOING GREAT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our economy is doing great. But Americans will not find that out from the Main Street media. New York Times, January 2006: the U.S. economy slowed sharply at the end of 2005.

Atlanta Journal Constitution, January 2006: economic growth slows to a snail's pace.

The New York Times again, January 2006: pockets of concern slow a strong U.S. economy.

But what the facts show, the U.S. economy grew 3.1 percent during 2005. The unemployment rate is 4.7 percent, the lowest since July 2001.

The Congressional Budget Office projects economic growth at 3.6 percent in 2006. Personal incomes grew above inflation last year in 49 out of 50 States. Two million jobs were created last year, and more Americans are working than ever before. Average weekly earnings grew faster in 2005 than the average growth during the Clinton years.

Do not believe the headlines. Our economy is the envy of the industrialized world, and we are doing great.

PORT SECURITY

(Mr. FEENEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concern with the potential port management transfer to Dubai Ports World.

Less than 1 month ago, our President stood in front of us and told us that homeland security was the number one issue this Nation faces. And, in fact, this administration has a strong and great record in defending our homeland.

But last week, when I was home, Americans throughout my district expressed deep concern that this fast track deal had not been given the type of scrutiny that all of us took a constitutional oath to do when we said we would protect our country.

I need to say that, although the United Arab Emirates has been recently a good friend, including a friend in the war on terror, this deal deserves much more discourse and much more scrutiny before it goes forward.

I plan to support legislation to provide congressional oversight for such important decisions in the future and to put a hold on this deal unless and until Congress satisfies itself, as the administration has, that America's interests and security will not be imperiled.

STATUS OF THE ECONOMY

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, my son Johnny and his new bride bought a house last fall. He is a baseball coach at our local high school. He has joined a record number of people, the largest in the history of the United States, who own their own home. The great American Dream, to own your own home.

The naysayers say the economy is struggling, but the facts do not prove out to be the truth. More people own their own home in America than at any time in the history of our Nation.

We are growing. We have an unemployment rate of 4.7 percent, and that is one of the lowest in history. Texas unemployment is at an all-time low in modern history. Our economy grew a solid 4.1 percent in the third quarter, the 10th straight quarter of GDP at a rate above 3 percent.

We are producing more. We are growing more. We are providing more jobs. We need to prevent the tax increases that many in this body wish to make. We need to make sure that we maintain a good tax structure and keep the tax cuts in position so that this growth will continue. It is good for the American Dream.

PORT ACQUISITION

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is said that Washington does two things well, nothing and overreact. And both have been in high relief in the last week in our Nation's Capital.

Americans learned just a few days ago of the approval by the Committee on Foreign Investment of the United States that a company owned by the United Arab Emirates had purchased the ability to operate ports in six major American cities.

Those on the do-nothing side argued very quickly that the contract had been vetted in the CFIUS program, a 30-day perfunctory review. They argued that no more review was necessary, despite the fact that the UAE had been the home to the banks that funneled money to the 19 hijackers on 9/11 and, in fact, had endorsed the Taliban government in Afghanistan before that attack.

On the overreact side, many in Congress, especially, it seems, Democrats

in the Senate, called for a complete cancellation of the contract without regard to the fact that since 9/11 the United Arab Emirates has been a strong ally of the United States, providing a safe harbor for more than 500 of our ships to be refueled and readied.

For my part, I joined those in Congress who called for a thorough investigation of this contract in the next month and a half and in an agreement reached this weekend between the administration, Congress, and the companies involved of a 45-day review to go forward.

But in order for this contract to be moved forward, the American people must be absolutely certain that doing so will not compromise the methods and practices that the Coast Guard, Customs, and Homeland Security employ to protect our ports.

OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Republican fiscal policies that have led the United States economy to an expansion rate of 3.5 percent in 2005. Over the last year we have experienced real economic successes as a result of our legislation that puts American families first.

In 2005 we witnessed historically low unemployment rates, a GDP growth rate of 4.3 percent, and 30 straight months of employment gains. It is no wonder consumer confidence rose last month to the highest level in several years. The current unemployment rate of 4.7 percent is lower than the average rates in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Our policies, Mr. Speaker, are working. And just last month our payroll employment rose by another 193,000 jobs.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is strong. Household net worth is at an all-time high. Construction spending is at an all-time high. Homeownership is at an all-time high.

I think we can all see the trend developing here. As a Congress, we must adhere to the principles of lower taxes and more responsible government spending. These are the policies that have a proven track record of growing our economy. I am greatly encouraged that economic forecasters project our robust economy will continue in 2006.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT BUSH'S HISTORIC TRIP TO INDIA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, while preparing for his upcoming visit to India, President Bush recently highlighted the unique role India is playing in the 21st century. As the largest democracy in the world and

one of the largest economies in the world, India possesses a rare combination of freedom and innovation which is paving the way for the country's bright future.

The United States already shares a strong strategic partnership with India, enhanced by the extraordinary success of 2.2 million Indian-Americans. Our nations are working together to defeat the global threat of terrorism, support democracy around the world, and encourage fair trade. Last year, exports from America to India increased by 30 percent, clearly indicating a bright future for U.S.-India trade with mutual benefit.

By traveling to India this week, President Bush is taking another step to cement the bonds of this strong relationship. I appreciate his leadership, and I am confident that he will witness the same positive developments I saw during my recent trip to India.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SECURING OUR HOMELAND

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we are hearing a good bit about national security today; and whether it is ports or the PATRIOT Act, we know that there are things that we in this body can do and steps we can take to be certain that America is a safer place for our children, for our families to live, to work, to enjoy our lives.

Mr. Speaker, the PATRIOT Act as it comes back around and as we hear more about this and hear more about the reauthorization of this, I would encourage our colleagues to remember this is a tool that has proven to be successful and useful in our national security. It has proven to be a useful tool in keeping America safe. It has proven to be useful to law enforcement. It deserves reauthorization. It deserves reconsideration, and I encourage all Members of this body to support reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 16, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, Effective today, February 16th, I resign my seat on the Committee on Education pending my appointment to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Sincerely,

JOHN BARROW.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 17, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 17, 2006, at 1:25 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4745.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore TOM DAVIS signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, February 17, 2006:

H.R. 4745, making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Chair announces on February 16, 2006, the Speaker appointed the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. KOLBE, Arizona, Chairman
Mr. McCaul, Texas, Vice Chairman

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. CURT WELDON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable CURT WELDON, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 17, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony and documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compli-

ance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

CURT WELDON,
Member of Congress.

PORT SECURITY

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, the idea that any foreign government could control our ports sets off alarm bells for many Americans. And it ought to. Our Nation's ports are among our most critical infrastructure.

And that is why I cannot fathom why the Bush administration would willingly transfer the operation of 20 U.S. ports to a company owned by the United Arab Emirates, a country who may be an ally today but has had a checkered past when it comes to supporting terrorism. In approving the transaction, we see once again how the administration conducts business behind a veil of secrecy, cutting corners, failing to follow the law and acting at the behest of not the American citizens but industry. Indeed, they only agreed to the 45-day review the law requires after the company suggested it. And while mid-level officials were signing off on this deal, the President was nominating a top DP World executive to serve in his administration, a blatant conflict of interest.

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that Dubai Ports World says there will be a firewall between the company and its U.S. ports, make no mistake, their employees will be operating these ports as of Thursday.

And whether the issue is ports, the Iraq War, the wiretapping of American citizens, what concerns me is this Republican Congress has never once asked this administration the tough questions. It has to. Congress must not once again give in to a policy that is clearly not in the public interest.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

FACILITATING SHAREHOLDER CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS TO MAKE SETTLEMENT COMMON STOCK AVAILABLE UNDER THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 449) to facilitate shareholder consideration of proposals to make

Settlement Common Stock under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act available to missed enrollees, eligible elders, and eligible persons born after December 18, 1971, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 449

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT.

Section 36(d)(3) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629b) is amended—

(1) by striking “(d)(3)” and inserting “(3)”;
(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “of this section” and inserting “or an amendment to articles of incorporation under section 7(g)(1)(B)”;
(3) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “, or” and inserting “; or”; and

(B) by striking “such resolution” and inserting “the resolution or amendment to articles of incorporation”; and

(4) in subparagraph (B), by striking “such resolution” and inserting “the resolution or amendment to articles of incorporation”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 449, which is sponsored by Alaska Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, corrects a problem related to the issuance of stock by Native corporations pursuant to the Native Alaska Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

The bill eases certain restrictions placed on Native corporations that have made it practically impossible for many of them to issue new stock to young Alaska Natives. The same legislation has already been passed by the House as part of H.R. 3351, the Native American Technical Corrections Act.

In passing this bill today, we should recognize and applaud the efforts of the congressman for all of Alaska, Mr. YOUNG, who has labored for years to bring this bill before the House today.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, S. 449 is noncontroversial legislation to make it easier for Alaska Native corporations to issue new stock.

Although S. 449 has neither been the subject of a hearing nor a markup in the Committee on Resources, it is sensible legislation which seeks to allow for expanded partition by Alaska Natives in the Native corporations established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. I am not aware of any opposition to S. 449 and urge support for its passage.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 449, a bill to facilitate shareholder consideration of proposals to make settlement common stock under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) available to missed enrollees, eligible elders, and eligible persons born after December 18, 1971.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), as originally enacted, limited Alaska Native Regional Corporations from enrolling Natives born after December 18, 1971, as shareholders in their respective corporations. Subsequent amendments to ANCSA have allowed Regional Corporations to include Natives born after December 18, 1971 (often referred to as “New Natives” or “Shareholder Descendants”), if existing shareholders of the Corporation adopt a resolution at an annual meeting. Thus far, very few Native Corporations have adopted resolutions to include Shareholder Descendants, in part because the standard of adopting a resolution is too high.

As the law now exists, Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) may issue new stock to children of their original shareholders born after 1971 and missed enrollees and additional stock to Native Elders, but they may not do so unless a majority of the corporation's shares approve such a change at a meeting of the corporation's shareholders. However, because not all shareholders attend corporation meetings, it is difficult at any meeting to achieve a vote in which a majority of all shareholders, whether or not represented at the meeting, agree to have new stock issued.

S. 449 amends the law to require that only a majority of shares represented at the meeting itself assent to the issuance of new stock, so long as a quorum is present, in order for new stock to be issued.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 449.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ACT COMMEMORATING THE LITE, OR LIFETIME INNOVATIONS OF THOMAS EDISON

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1096) to establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1096

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Act Commemorating the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas Alva Edison and his innovations; and

(2) to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the Edison National Historic Site to ensure public use and enjoyment of the Site as an educational, scientific, and cultural center.

SEC. 3. THOMAS EDISON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the Thomas Edison National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System (hereafter the “Historical Park”).

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The Historical Park shall be comprised of—

(1) all property owned by the United States in the Edison National Historic Site as well as all property authorized to be acquired by the Secretary of the Interior for inclusion in the Edison National Historic Site before the date of the enactment of this Act, as generally depicted on the map entitled the “Edison National Historic Site”, numbered 20003B, and dated April 1977; and

(2) all property authorized to be acquired for inclusion in the Historical Park by this Act or other law enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **MAP.**—The map of the Historical Park shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the Historical Park in accordance with this Act and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Acts entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes,” approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) and “An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes,” approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) **ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**—

(1) **REAL PROPERTY.**—The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(2) **PERSONAL PROPERTY.**—The Secretary may acquire personal property associated with, and appropriate for, interpretation of the Historical Park.

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with interested entities and individuals to provide for the preservation, development, interpretation, and use of the Historical Park.

(d) **REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.**—Public Law 87–628 (76 Stat. 428), regarding the establishment and administration of the Edison National Historic Site, is repealed.

(e) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the “Edison National Historic Site” shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Thomas Edison National Historical Park”.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman

from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1096 redesignates the Edison National Historic site as the Thomas Edison National Historic Park. The park will encompass all lands currently contained in the historic site and property designated for inclusion by the Secretary of the Interior prior to passage of this act.

Typically, an historic site is considered by the National Park Service to contain a single historical feature, while generally a National Historic Park extends beyond single properties or buildings. Based on this definition, Edison Historic Site will be more appropriately designated as a National Historic Park. Supporters of the park anticipate that this redesignation will bring more attention, visitation, and revenue to the Edison Historic Site.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1096.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the legacy left by Thomas Edison is among the most important in American history. Through his generosity, the National Park Service is able to interpret the legacy for future generations, and H.R. 1096 will help further that important goal.

In addition to the sponsor, other members of the New Jersey delegation, including Representatives ROB ANDREWS, FRANK PALLONE, DONALD PAYNE, and BILL PASCRELL, are to be commended for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor.

I urge our colleagues to support H.R. 1096.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), the author of the bill.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1096, a piece of legislation that benefits an important historic landmark from my home State of New Jersey, the Thomas Edison National Historic Site.

I also want to thank my colleagues from the other side of the aisle for their support and their hard work on

this as well, Congressman DONALD PAYNE and Congressman BILL PASCRELL for all their work in joining with me in sponsoring this important legislation.

Tom Edison's contributions, most notably the incandescent light bulb, the motion picture camera, and the phonograph, have had a profound effect on the way people live their lives around the world. In fact, Life Magazine once honored him as the most important individual for the last 1,000 years.

The Thomas Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey is a national treasure, encompassing Edison's home of 45 years, his laboratories and offices, and a vast collection of artifacts and historic documents.

Since 1997, the Edison Preservation Foundation has successfully partnered with the National Park Service to provide resources for the restoration of the site's historic buildings, artifacts and such, and plans to establish an endowment to support it for future operation including education programs for children. This partnership is really a great example of the public/private partnership working together and can serve as a role model for other programs in the future considering scarce financial Federal resources.

Unfortunately, both the historic structures where Edison lived and worked and irreplaceable treasures they now hold are at serious risk due to extensive water and damage and age-related decay. Although the site historically has been a major education destination for students from around the region, the need for renovations has led to a temporary closure of the site to visitors. While private support through the efforts of the Edison Preservation Foundation is crucial to efforts to restore the site, a long-term commitment from the Federal Government is also necessary for future success. So to ensure this long-term commitment, we have H.R. 1096, which commemorates Edison's lifetime accomplishments; redesignates, consistent with the National Park Service guidelines, the Edison Historic Site as the National Historic Park; and authorizes appropriations for the support of the site. This legislation will enable the Edison site to more effectively compete for scarce Federal funds and it would also strengthen the Edison Preservation Foundation's ability to raise private dollars.

Finally, Thomas Edison's legacy is an important component of the history of the State of New Jersey and the United States. So it is important that this Congress affirm its support for the Edison site by advancing this legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and commend him for his excellent leadership on this legislation.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 1096, the Act Commemorating the Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison. The Thomas Edison Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey is a national historic treasure, and I am privileged to have it located in my congressional district and have had the pleasure of visiting the site on a number of occasions.

The laboratory complex consists of buildings that date back to 1887. These labs house the technology and the technological innovations and artifacts that changed the course of not only America but the entire world. We have visitors from throughout the world that come to the site, many from Asian countries where technology has become a very important part of their development and in many instances even bow to the statue and pictures of Thomas Edison because they revere the importance of technology that has really lighted the world through his inventions. The labs house the technology and innovations. And from the light bulb to the motion picture camera, Edison's unparalleled innovations are being preserved for current and future generations. The first movie was made there, the Black Maria it is called, and the movie studio is as it was over 100 years ago. The light bulb, the phonograph and records that were cast there at this site all need to be preserved.

Over the years, I have witnessed a positive impact of this unit of the National Park Service. The Edison laboratory complex has opened its doors and resources to assisting in the education of the community, particularly our young people who have had an opportunity to study and to have innovative lessons there. As a former teacher, I am well aware of the value of having a piece of history accessible to augment the learning process by providing lesson plans for teachers, hosting on-site and virtual tours, and facilitating programs and activities for students. The Edison site has provided an invaluable learning experience for these young people.

Thomas Edison devoted his life to technological innovations. His work ethic and commitment to improving the quality of life for others is a lesson that is extremely applicable today. Edison's improvement on the telephone and telegraph machines put him on the cutting edge of communications technology. As we in Congress consider the reauthorization of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Edison's legacy reminds us of how far we have come.

This June we will celebrate the reopening of the Edison complex. For 2 years the National Park Service and the Thomas Edison Preservation Foundation have worked together to restore and revitalize this historic site.

□ 1430

Over 400,000 artifacts and 5 million pages of documents that trace Edison's process of inventions have been deteriorating due to poor environmental

conditions and age-related decay. Many years ago, I made a request to allocate an appropriations to address these issues, and we were able to get \$5 million about 10 years ago. The result is what we see today.

I am very appreciative that my colleagues approve this appeal. The repairs and enhancements of this century-old building will improve the preservation of the priceless artifacts, ensuring that this treasure will remain an educational and cultural destination for generations to come. Passage of this bill will ensure the long-term success of the Edison Historical Site and demonstrate the congressional commitment to our history. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be able to thank my good friend from New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, for his eloquence in commenting on this very important site that will be established. The site is a national historic treasure and contains the world's largest collections of materials related to Thomas Edison.

As a member of the House Science Committee, clearly we should use every opportunity to focus on America's researchers and inventors and emphasize that Thomas Edison is one of America's greatest inventors, who has shown not only his love for research and invention, but his inexhaustible energy and genius that produced 1,093 patents in his lifetime, frankly, more than any other American.

Just this weekend we spent time in the city of Houston with the State of the Black Union, and one of the issues dealt with the digital divide among African Americans. The idea of highlighting the importance of invention and the importance of technology of that time by establishing and making better the Edison National Historical Site is, I think, an asset not only to the Nation but certainly to the place where it is lodged. I frankly think that America is a Nation that has great creativity, and I am proud to be an American for that very reason. We are problem-solvers.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the further recognition of the works of Thomas Edison by establishing the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, it causes me to be moved to comment on some of the statements that have been made earlier on the floor of the House and the week's events as relates to signs of showing that we are not creative in our governance of America today, that is, of course, the debate and the recognition of the recent contract with UAE as relates to the taking over of a number of ports throughout America.

Frankly, let me just say that this is not a debate about the UAE, though we

now know today that the Coast Guard has indicated that they are not sure that there is not a potential for there to be a security risk in light of port operations being in the hands of foreign entities.

My concern, of course, in this whole debate is the fact that we are dealing with foreign entities in one of our most difficult areas to secure. We know that a ship laden with weapons of mass destruction can be volatile and dangerous.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I will not yield at this point.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order on the germaneness of the subject matter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, although I appreciate very much the gentlewoman's comments as they relate to Thomas Edison and in particular her teaching, which enlightened me on his being the greatest inventor in American history, I would ask that we look at the germaneness of the subject matter and confine debate to the relevance of the subject matter, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. Debate should be confined to the pending question.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as my good friend from the Republican side wishes to extinguish debate, let me just indicate, as I started out before, that Thomas Edison represents innovativeness. Unfortunately, our present administration is not innovative.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that my colleagues will join me in being innovative by not yielding to any compromises that may quash the thoughtfulness that we would have in dealing with our homeland security, which, of course, also involves technology.

I hope that we will have a reasonable debate. My good friend from the other side of the aisle, I hope he will engage in this debate so that legislation that I am offering that is creative, that deals with putting a moratorium on any of these operations owned by foreign entities, a study by the GAO, a study by Homeland Security about our security, I hope that we will have the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to be relevant at another time.

Again, let me say I congratulate the sponsors of this legislation dealing with the Thomas Edison National Historical Park. It exudes innovativeness and respect for creativity in America.

It is sad to say that the last week's activities and our failures for America's ports show no creativity. It is time for Congress to be as creative as it can be in securing the Nation's homeland.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to include these in the extension of remarks.

I want to speak in strong support of H.R. 1096—legislation to help restore the Thomas

Edison National Historic Site. I congratulate my colleague SCOTT GARRETT for introducing this worthy legislation. It has been a privilege to work closely with Representative GARRETT and Representative DON PAYNE, whose district houses a large portion of the Edison site, to preserve this national treasure.

I am proud that I represent a region of New Jersey that has given birth to some of the greatest innovations in our Nation's history: Thomas Edison's Glenmont estate in West Orange and the Great Falls National Historic District in Paterson—America's First Industrial City. Each of these impressive areas—only 10 miles apart—sprang from the imagination of two of the great pioneers in American history: Thomas Edison and Alexander Hamilton. Both of these sites—the Edison National Historic Site and the Great Falls Historic District—have been included among the most endangered historic areas in our Nation. The artifacts of both sites are in terrible physical condition and are in grave peril of being lost to the country forever.

Together, these majestic places tell the inspiring story of the rise of the greatest technological and economic power the world has ever known. I strongly believe that it is the role of the Federal Government to partner with the local community to preserve the glory of these places for all future generations to behold.

Although these sites are both close to my heart, I want to specifically voice my support for the preservation and rehabilitation of the Edison National Historic Site, which embodies Edison's legacy as a pioneer of American technology. The Edison National Historic Site, encompassing Edison's home and laboratory complex, is regarded as one of America's original research and development facilities. Half of Edison's astonishing 1,093 patents were earned during the 44 years he lived in West Orange.

The classic inventions created at this site include the phonograph, electric generating systems, the dry storage battery, and the motion picture camera. Edison left a vast collection of artifacts, models, photographs, drawings, and furnishings at the Edison site. In addition, he left nearly 3,500 notebooks documenting every experiment, idea, failure, observation and business strategy of his long career.

Even as Thomas Edison lives on as one of the leading visionaries of our time, his home and labs have tragically fallen into severe disrepair due to age-related decay. The public and private sector must work together to ensure that adults and young people alike will always be able to rediscover the genius of Edison and the impact he has had on all of our daily lives. The support of the National Park Service has enabled the Edison Preservation Foundation to create a vital public-private partnership to maintain the site as a major community and educational resource.

Despite this progress, Congressional support through H.R. 1096 is vital to the Edison site's long-term success. The legislation is an important symbol of Congress's commitment to preserving the legacy of one of America's most influential inventors and to restoring a Federal site that is a historic landmark. I urge the House of Representatives to move forward and approve this important legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1096, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

STE. GENEVIEVE COUNTY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE STUDY ACT OF 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1728) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1728

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AREA.—The term "Area" means Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, which includes the Bequette-Ribault, St. Gemme-Amoureux, and Wilhawk homes, and the related and supporting historical assets located in Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the State of Missouri—

(1) complete a study on the suitability and feasibility of designating the Area as a unit of the National Park System, which shall include the potential impact that designation of the area as a unit of the National Park System is likely to have on land within the proposed area or bordering the proposed area that is privately owned at the time that the study is conducted; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the findings of the study.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1728, introduced by Congressman RUSS CARNAHAN of Missouri and amended by the Resources Committee, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in eastern Missouri as a unit of the National Park System. This area contains some of the only existing examples of the French colonial period settlement in North America dating to circa 1785.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I do commend the gentleman from Missouri, Representative CARNAHAN, for valuing the historic and cultural resources which make his district unique and for seeking ways to interpret and share those resources more broadly.

I spoke with him personally on the phone last night. He is in his district at the current time attending very important activities, but this legislation is just as important to him. Otherwise, he would be here speaking on this personally.

If the study we are authorizing today should support such a move, we look forward to working with Representative CARNAHAN on legislation to make this area a unit of the National Park System.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1728.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1728, the Ste. Genevieve County National Historic Site Study Act of 2005.

This bill will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of designating areas within Ste. Genevieve County, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System.

This study is important to the area, as it will help preserve the great history in the region.

Ste. Genevieve's historical significance derives from French colonial settlement in Missouri.

It was an outpost of the French empire and demonstrates France's efforts to colonize the central region of North America.

Today, Ste. Genevieve remains steeped in French tradition, both culturally and architecturally.

The historic region in Ste. Genevieve has a rich collection of resources, including a signifi-

cant number of 18th century French colonial structures.

Included in the proposed site study are two of the only five remaining vertical log houses known to survive in North America.

Built around 1800, each stands together on their original sites, standing as a reflection of our history, which needs to be preserved for our future.

In addition to these two homes, historic downtown Ste. Genevieve, as well as a common field used by French settlers, known as Le Grand Champ, are further examples of the history and tradition that exists in Ste. Genevieve County.

This bill is important because the study will not only ensure the preservation of local colonial history, but it will result in economic development from increased tourism and entrepreneurship.

I'd like to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL for their work on this bill. I would also like to thank my colleague and co-sponsor, Congresswoman EMERSON for her support.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1728, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating portions of Ste. Genevieve County in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE CREATION OF THE NASCAR-HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 677) recognizing the creation of the NASCAR-Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 677

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that, while there are 1.3 million automotive technicians currently employed, industry figures confirm that an additional 50,000 technicians are needed to fill open positions each year;

Whereas the National Automotive Dealers Association reports that 57 percent of their dealers' operating profit is generated by their parts and service departments; that dealers consider it difficult to find a qualified technician; and that 42 percent of all dealer technicians have been engaged in that line of work less than one year;

Whereas the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc. ("NASCAR"),

the NASCAR Universal Technical Institute, and a collaboration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities ("HBCUs") have agreed to create a strategic alliance focused on increasing the number and quality of job opportunities for African-American students in key racing and other related automotive business activities including automotive engineering and technology, automotive safety, sports marketing, and other automotive industry areas;

Whereas NASCAR and its partner HBCUs are establishing a formal structure to increase the number and quality of job opportunities for African-American students with NASCAR in key racing and other related automotive business activities through the NASCAR Universal Training Institute and the NASCAR Diversity Internship Program;

Whereas NASCAR has agreed to efforts to enhance the identification of employment opportunities with NASCAR such as Internships, full time jobs, including entry level management positions, part-time jobs for college students, and post-graduate job placement for students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees at partner HBCUs;

Whereas NASCAR and its partner HBCUs have developed a program to increase awareness, access to, and participation by African-American students in the NASCAR Universal Training Institute and NASCAR Diversity Internship Program by partner HBCUs for the racing and other related automotive industries; and

Whereas NASCAR and the partner HBCUs will seek opportunities to establish and enhance the funding of targeted job development activities by partner HBCUs, and to generate support for the HBCUs in their efforts to enhance curriculum development in sports marketing, finance, human resource management and other automotive industry areas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, Inc., the NASCAR Universal Technical Institute, and a collaboration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and their creation of a strategic alliance to increase the number and quality of job opportunities for African-American students in key racing and other related automotive business activities;

(2) commends NASCAR, the NASCAR Universal Technical Institute, the NASCAR Technical Training Institute, and the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, for their efforts to increase the number and quality of job opportunities for African-American students in key racing and other related automotive business activities; and

(3) encourages the Departments of Education and Labor and other appropriate agencies of the Federal government to support this effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 677.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 677, a measure to recognize the creation of the NASCAR-Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium. I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for offering this legislation and for his support of this important partnership.

It is fitting that we are considering this resolution on the final day of Black History Month, 4 weeks during which our Nation has celebrated the countless contributions of African Americans to our Nation's history.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs, have played an important role in enriching the lives of not just African Americans, but our entire country. In fact, President Bush once noted, "Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities opened the door to knowledge when other doors were barred. And today they offer exciting opportunities to young people to contribute to their country."

While compromising only 3 percent of our Nation's 2- and 4-year institutions, HBCUs are responsible for producing 28 percent of all bachelor's degrees, 15 percent of all master's degrees, and 17 percent of all first professional degrees earned by African Americans. And through its new partnership with the popular sport of NASCAR, the impact of HBCUs is sure to grow.

The new NASCAR-HBCU Consortium will promote diversity throughout NASCAR, including its marketing, service, and engineering departments. This is particularly meaningful as our Nation seeks to increase the number of students studying math and science in college. According to the Department of Education's most recent figures, only about 9 percent of students receiving a bachelor's degree in math or science are African Americans, so the creation of this consortium could not have come at a better time.

The United States must produce more students interested in math and science in order for our Nation to excel in an increasingly global economy. HBCUs are sure to be at the forefront of this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud NASCAR for recognizing the contributions HBCUs have made to American education and culture and, more importantly, the contributions they will make in the future. I am proud that the House has taken the lead in promoting the efforts of this consortium, which will ensure new and exciting career opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students attending HBCUs. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 677, which recognizes the creation of the recently formed partnership be-

tween NASCAR and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This partnership is aimed at increasing the number and quality of job opportunities for African American students in the NASCAR workforce, as well as other related fields, including automotive engineering and technology, automotive safety, sports marketing and other automotive industry areas.

□ 1445

This year, 2006, marks NASCAR's 57th year of racing. Sadly, during its 57 years, NASCAR has had just five black drivers to ever compete in a Cup Series race.

In 1963, Wendell Scott finished 10th or better in the points standings three times, and came away with the victory. However, Scott did not receive his trophy until a month after the fact.

Second place finisher Buck Baker, who was white, was awarded the trophy in fear of fan uproar. Today, nearly 45 years later, the number of black NASCAR fans have increased, but minority drivers and automotive technicians are still nearly nonexistent.

According to an ESPN poll, approximately 6.6 million NASCAR fans are black, yet no black driver has competed at the Cup Series level since Willie T. Ribbs ran three races 20 years ago.

The on-track program is not NASCAR's only effort at diversifying the predominately white sport. NASCAR offers awards, diversity scholarships to minority undergraduate and graduate students attending HBCUs.

The scholarship program is in its sixth year, and the NASCAR diversity internship program is in its seventh year. The internship program is a 10-week paid summer internship that introduces minority students to NASCAR and various career opportunities throughout the industry.

Many of the summer interns have graduated and are currently pursuing engineering and sports management careers. As the automotive industry grows and becomes more technologically demanding in the coming decades, this partnership between NASCAR and Historically Black Colleges and Universities will become increasingly vital.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the author of this important resolution, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 677, a resolution recognizing the importance of the NASCAR-HBCU Consortium. On February 8, 2006, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, NASCAR, announced a new collaboration with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Universal Technical Institute.

The effort, known as the NASCAR-HBCU Consortium, focuses on increasing the number of job opportunities for African American students in racing, technology, automotive safety and sports marketing. I am especially pleased that over 40 Members of Congress have joined my colleague, Representative WATT, and me in introducing this resolution.

Being from Alabama, I have firsthand knowledge of many of the partners in this consortium. As a race fan, I have spent many days at the Talladega Super Speedway, a facility that I am proud to represent here in Congress. In addition, I have the honor of representing three of the leading HBCUs in the Nation: Talladega College, Alabama State University, and Tuskegee University. Their excellence and commitment to education are known across our Nation.

In Alabama, we have been blessed by a thriving and growing automotive industry. Both Honda and Hyundai have built large plants in my congressional district, and they employ thousands of Alabamians with good jobs at good wages.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that all our young folks have the skills to compete for these jobs. This new partnership should help more of tomorrow's workers take advantage of these new opportunities.

I also call on the United States Departments of Education and Labor to support this consortium as well. And finally I would like to thank Speaker HASTERT for his participation at the announcement of this consortium.

Also I wish to thank Majority Leader BOEHNER and Chairman MCKEON for expediting this resolution for consideration. With that, I respectfully ask the House for its support of this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership in managing this legislation as it comes to the floor, and let me give my appreciation to Mr. ROGERS and Mr. WATT for really pinpointing an area that has such vast popularity and recognition and finding in it an opportunity for education and jobs.

This partnership between NASCAR, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, as well as the HBCUs, is close to a partnership longing to be established.

This relationship that deals with a sport that has come to be one of the most popular in the United States of America, one that probably has the greatest Sunday afternoon or Saturday afternoon audience of any of our sports, and maybe our sports combined, now can stand as a symbol of opportunity and civil rights.

It is a symbol now of a combination of the needs of the NASCAR sports industry, and Historically Black Colleges. How important it is that we dis-

cuss and debate this on the last day of commemorating African American History Month.

Let me point out what is most exciting about this effort. One, HBCUs are known to be one of the greatest resources for talented African American students and others. In addition, Historically Black Colleges are found mostly in the South, where it is known that the NASCAR effort is most popular, but also the heart of that effort.

Of course, it combines education, skills and job opportunity. So this partnership is all that we would ask it to be. We now look to the Department of Education to really engage itself in whatever efforts are necessary to promote, encourage and facilitate this partnership. Let us provide the necessary resources, governmental if at all, necessary to ensure that the partnership continues.

Finally, let me say, let me encourage the young people who might be listening to this debate that the opportunity now stands for you to put your internship, full-time jobs, including entry-level management positions, part-time jobs and postgraduate job placement for students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees at partner HBCUs.

The skills would be, of course, the technical aspects of this business, and that is relating to the automotive business activities, including automotive engineering and technology, automotive safety, sports marketing and other automotive industry areas.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, I want to congratulate my colleagues and also say that this is, of course, planting the seeds. I have been discussing with my universities in Texas the idea of looking at sports management to cover the NFL, the NBA, and American baseball. These are important economic engines, and it is certainly a very important step that this resolution, H. Res. 677, is going forward, partnering HBCUs with NASCAR.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any more speakers, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield such time as he may consume to the cosponsor of this resolution and the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative MEL WATT.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Mr. DAVIS, for yielding the time.

I am honored to be an original cosponsor with my friend, Congressman ROGERS from Alabama, of this legislation. Some people probably are wondering why this kind of interesting coalition has come together.

Well, for me, it is about having the Lowes Motor Speedway in Charlotte, North Carolina, not inside my congressional district, it is actually in an adjoining congressional district represented by one of my other North Carolina colleagues. But we know the value of NASCAR and motor sports in

North Carolina and in the area from which I come.

The second thing that converges here is the recognition that I have five Historically Black Colleges and Universities in my district, and two of them have already become a part of this partnership and will benefit from NASCAR's diversity initiative: North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Representative DAVIS has indicated the history of NASCAR when it comes to drivers, and that is important, but I want to emphasize that this is not only about having drivers in the cars. NASCAR is a massive conglomerate of entities, and a lot of people view NASCAR or motor sports as just the guys that are out there running around the track or the guys in the pits. There are marketing opportunities, there are accounting opportunities; this is a major corporate undertaking here. There are engineering opportunities.

I was so very impressed when I went to one of the shops there to know that this is not just somebody putting a car out there, it is massaging the tolerances and doing what is necessary to get those cars, engineering-wise, to perform at their maximum performance level. So we think this has tremendous potential for job opportunities for an increase of diversity.

Now, is this unique? It may be somewhat unique for NASCAR, but it is certainly not unique for the Congressional Black Caucus. The Congressional Black Caucus, which I am honored to chair, has been in the forefront of pushing job opportunities in every area of our lives: in the sports arena, in the business arena, in the financial services arena, you just name it, go down the list. So, for us, this is not a unique program, it is a natural progression and an expansion of what we set out to do.

And then, finally, I would just say that, as most things, this is at its bottom line about money.

If we can take the fan base of NASCAR and superimpose on it all of the African American potential that is out there, so that there is an equal amount of customer and fan base in the African American community as there is in other communities, you will see the same thing happen in NASCAR that you saw happen when Tiger Woods became the superstar that he is in golf.

You will see the same thing happen in NASCAR that has happened in football and basketball and baseball and other sports. They have recognized that there is a customer base out there that, if they take advantage of it, can be cultivated if people who look like the customers are involved in it.

So we dare not delude ourselves that this is all about just goodwill. This is about money at its base. And it is about the American way, the capital way of doing things.

We support that. We are not adverse to it. We are not opposing it. We are

supporters of that. We think this is a way to do it.

I want to congratulate my good friend, Mr. ROGERS. And when we introduced this resolution, a stream of my colleagues came immediately to support the resolution.

I thank Speaker HASTERT for joining us at the press conference where this was rolled out. And I thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for expediting this resolution to the floor of the House.

□ 1500

It does not cost us any money. All we are doing is congratulating, encouraging private enterprise to be more diverse in their customer base, in their employment base, in their opportunities that are extended to all Americans. That is what this is all about. It deserves our unqualified support, and I encourage my colleagues to support it without even thinking about it a second time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 677.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS WESTERN'S 1966 NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 668) celebrating the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship and recognizing the groundbreaking impact of the title game victory on diversity in sports and civil rights in America, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 668

Whereas Don Haskins was a high school basketball star at Enid High School in Enid, Oklahoma, a college standout at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State) under his mentor, Coach Hank Iba, and a successful Texas high school basketball coach, amassing a 157-41 win-loss record coaching Benjamin, Hedley, and Dumas High Schools;

Whereas in 1961 Don Haskins became the coach of the men's basketball team at Texas Western College, which was later renamed the University of Texas at El Paso;

Whereas early in the 1965-1966 basketball season Don Haskins told Texas Western president Joseph Ray, "The way our boys line up now, my six best boys are black. If I leave two or three of them out because they're black, they'll know it. [And] the white boys will know it.";

Whereas the 1966 Texas Western team of Bobby Joe Hill (Detroit, Michigan), Orsten Artis (Gary, Indiana), Togo Railey (El Paso, Texas), Willie Worsley (New York, New York), David Palacio (El Paso, Texas), Dick Myers (Peabody, Kansas), Harry Flournoy (Gary, Indiana), Louis Baudoin (Albuquerque, New Mexico), Nevil Shed (New York, New York), Jerry Armstrong (Eagleville, Missouri), Willie Cager (New York, New York), and David "Big Daddy" Lattin (Houston, Texas) finished the basketball season 28-1;

Whereas on March 19, 1966, Coach Don Haskins' all-black starting line-up, the first such line-up to ever appear in a major championship contest, defeated the heavily-favored University of Kentucky to win the NCAA Basketball Championship, an event defined by many as the "Brown v. Board of Education of athletics";

Whereas the Miners' victory accelerated the pace of racial integration in college athletics and contributed to the expansion of the civil rights movement into the realm of sports;

Whereas when recounting his historic impact on diversity in college sports, Don Haskins said, "I just played my best guys, like any coach would do.";

Whereas over the course of his career Don Haskins also coached the Miners to 32 winning seasons, seven Western Athletic Conference championships, four Western Athletic Conference tournament titles, and 21 post-season appearances, creating a proud tradition of college basketball success and community spirit in El Paso that persists to this day and winning entry into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship and recognizes the groundbreaking impact of the title game victory on diversity in sports and civil rights in America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 668.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It gives me great pleasure to rise in support of House Resolution 668, which celebrates the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA basketball championship and recognize the groundbreaking impact of the title game victory on diversity in sports and civil rights in America.

Texas Western's victory occurred 40 years ago, 1966, during the midst of the civil rights movement to end discrimination against blacks. The 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed institutional racial segregation. In Vietnam, blacks were fighting and dying

alongside their fellow white soldiers. Blacks were not, however, playing basketball at many schools in the South, where de facto segregation still reigned.

For Don Haskins, coach of the Texas Western Miners men's basketball team, a person's race did not matter. To him ability on the basketball court mattered more than the color of the player's skin. To Coach Haskins, the only thing that really mattered was winning.

This was the philosophy Coach Haskins used on the night of March 19, 1966. That night the Texas Western Miners made history by defeating the number-one-ranked, all-white University of Kentucky Wildcats for the NCAA basketball championship, a game of historical significance because no other college team at the time had ever started five black players in a major championship contest. In fact, when Texas Western defeated Kentucky 72-65, a game still celebrated as one of the biggest college basketball upsets in NCAA history, there were no black basketball players in the Southeastern or Atlantic Coast Conferences.

This remarkable triumph helped shift the national perception of black athletes and helped bring about the widespread desegregation of college sports. In turn, the desegregation of college sports helped to spread greater equality throughout American society.

Mr. Speaker, the man behind Texas Western's success is Don Haskins. His 38-year reign at Texas Western, now the University of Texas El Paso, allowed him to become one of the winningest coaches in NCAA history. He amassed a 719-354 record, 32 winning seasons, seven Western Athletic Conference Championships, four Western Athletic Tournament titles, and 21 post-season appearances. In 1997, Coach Haskins was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He retired from coaching in 1999.

Coach Don Haskins is truly a living legend in college sports. He believed that as a coach he should recruit the best raw talent he could find no matter the player's race, background, or life story. If not for the colorblind dream of Coach Haskins to win basketball games with his team's most talented players, history may not have been made on the night of March 19, 1966.

I want to thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. REYES) for introducing this legislation and bringing forth a lesser known, yet significant, piece of history in college athletics. I am happy to join my colleagues in celebrating the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA basketball championship. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise in support of H. Res. 668, a resolution to celebrate the 40th anniversary of

Texas Western's 1966 NCAA basketball championship.

I am proud to join my colleague and very good friend, the resolution's author, Congressman SILVESTRE REYES from El Paso, in commemorating the 40th anniversary of this watershed event in our struggle for racial equality.

On March 19, 1966, Texas Western College's Coach Don Haskins led an all-black starting lineup to a 72-65 win over an all-white team from the basketball powerhouse, University of Kentucky. For Coach Haskins, he was simply putting his best players on the floor. For the Nation, he delivered the message that in competition, talent and ability mattered more than race. This is a lesson that we are still learning today.

The young men who took Texas Western College to a 28-1 championship season braved racism and hostile crowds to carry their team and their college to victory. I invite you to see this 1966 team photo in front of Memorial Gym, courtesy of the University of Texas El Paso. These champions were Bobby Joe Hill, Orsten Artis, Togo Railey, Willie Worsley, David Palacio, Dick Meyers, Harry Flournoy, Louis Baudoin, Nevil Shed, Jerry Armstrong, Willie Cager, and David Lattin.

It is fitting that on this 40th anniversary of the 1966 Miners breaking the color barrier in the NCAA championship game, that we reflect on how far we have come and how far we have yet to go. College enrollments are at an all-time high; and yet black, Hispanic, and low-income students are not enrolling and graduating at the rates we need for our Nation to put its best players on the floor.

Texas Western College is now the University of Texas El Paso. As an institution, it continues to lead the charge in developing our best talents without regard to race, ethnicity, or family income. The University of Texas El Paso is one of our Nation's leading Hispanic-serving institutions: 72 percent of its students are Hispanic. It is third in the Nation for producing Hispanic undergraduates, and is also rated the top engineering school for Hispanics. Since 1988, it has been led by a Latina, Dr. Diana Natalicio, a top administrator and a trailblazer by anyone's measure.

The University of Texas El Paso, in the spirit of the 1966 championship Miners, continues to break barriers and continues to refuse to let race, ethnicity, or family income trump talent and hard work.

I hope that all my colleagues will join me in celebrating this milestone in college athletics and racial equality.

Please join me in saluting the Miners on the 40th anniversary of their NCAA championship, and I urge you to vote for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6½ minutes to my friend and colleague from El Paso, Texas (Mr. REYES), the author of this legislation.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas and also the gentleman from Florida for allowing us the time to speak here on this very important event, not just for El Paso and not just for Texas but for our whole country, for a whole generation of players and those that have benefited from their accomplishments.

I rise today in strong support, Mr. Speaker, of H. Res. 668, a resolution that celebrates the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA basketball championship, recognizing the groundbreaking impact of that title game victory on diversity in sports and, of course, on the impact, as my colleagues have stated, of civil rights in America.

I am proud to have introduced this bill and honored to have the opportunity to speak in this Chamber today about the importance of what a basketball team and a coach achieved 40 years ago.

This afternoon I want to thank Leader BOEHNER and Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member MILLER for their support in bringing this very important legislation to the floor.

On March 19, 1966, the Miners of Texas Western, which is now UTEP, led by Coach Don Haskins, defeated the University of Kentucky at Cole Field House in College Park, Maryland. This significant championship game gave the NCAA basketball championship at a crucial time to Texas Western College.

At a time when the bitter politics of racism dictated to many coaches around the country who got to play, Coach Haskins started five black players in the NCAA basketball championship game, the first time in America that this country had seen an all-black starting lineup in a major championship contest.

In 1966, as a strengthening civil rights movement met poisonous political dispute and violence, the Miners were clearly able to demonstrate to a Nation and the sports world the virtue of desegregation and equality.

As the athletic establishment abided by that unwritten rule that said, play two on the road, three if you are really behind, referring of course to black players, Coach Haskins looked past the color of the players' skin and concentrated on winning games and eventually the national championship.

Years later Coach Haskins would say, "I just played my best guys like any coach would do." That simple principled courage changed the course of American athletics and provided an important advance in the struggle of civil rights in our Nation.

The Texas Western's championship was an event defined by many as the Brown v. Board of Education of athletics. Like many whose lives were constrained by their appearance and back-

ground, I found extraordinary significance in that 1966 game.

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I was a Texas Western student during the fall semester of 1965 and had an opportunity to see these great players play. Shortly thereafter, I was drafted into the Army and eventually went on to fight in Vietnam. In March of 1966, I was still in El Paso, only stationed at Fort Bliss doing basic training. For those of us who were in the military at the time, the hypocrisy of America's racial policies were very clear. We saw a country that would not hesitate to send black and Hispanic soldiers to fight and die in foreign wars, but would not fight for us back at home.

Coach Haskins' and the Miners' victory helped reveal to a nation the absurdity of racism and the futility of segregation.

I returned from Vietnam and chose a career in public service and a career in which my successes followed from my abilities and my own hard work. Of course, I found that life does not abide by that perfect rule of a game like basketball, but I remain inspired today by Texas Western's win, and I know that I would not have had the opportunities I did have had it not been for the courage of people like Don Haskins and his Miners.

Today, a university, a city and a country are improved by the achievement of that 1966 team. Soon after that championship, Texas Western became the University of Texas at El Paso or, as we call it now, UTEP, and its basketball program continued to thrive under Coach Haskins until his retirement, as my colleagues have said, in 1999. Coach Haskins eventually led UTEP to 32 winning seasons, seven Western Athletic Conference championships, four Western Athletic Conference tournament titles, and 21 post-season appearances.

Last year, the Miners won 27 games, 16 at our own Don Haskins Center in El Paso, named after the great coach, and they also earned a spot in the NCAA tournament. This year, they are again near the top of their conference, a testament to the enduring tradition of college basketball success created by Don Haskins.

The university itself has been transformed from a small mining school into a hub of academic excellence and world-class research. El Paso, long proud of its Miners and its NCAA championship, has enjoyed the attention of a nation this year, as millions of Americans have fallen in love with the Miners through the recently released film "Glory Road," which is currently being shown around the country.

It is especially important for us to honor the 1966 Miners today on the eve of their accomplishment, here shown in that championship game against Kentucky. We must revise our historical injustice, the injustice of a group of men being judged by who they were, not how they played.

At the time, the Texas Western Miners were denied an opportunity to appear on the Ed Sullivan Show, but just last week I want to commend President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush as they honored this team at the White House, shown here in this photograph with the President, the original members of that 1966 championship team.

So this afternoon I want to congratulate Coach Don Haskins, Bobby Joe Hill, Orsten Artis, Togo Railey, Willie Worsley, David Palacio, Dick Myers, Harry Flournoy, Louis Baudoin, Nevil Shed, Jerry Armstrong, Willie Cager, and David "Big Daddy" Lattin on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of their NCAA championship and for all of their successes in their lives. Today, we also remember, of course, Bobby Joe Hill who died and was unable to be in this photograph here in 2002.

So, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 668.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for yielding me time, and I want to extend serious, serious commendations to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) for his introduction of this resolution, for his keen insight and the opportunity to note progress in our country.

Forty years ago, on March 19, 1966, the Texas Western basketball team, the Miners, defeated the University of Kentucky at Cole Field House in College Park, Maryland, to win the NCAA basketball championship.

This victory marked the first time that an all-black starting lineup appeared in a major championship athletic contest.

Often regarded as the *Brown v. Board of Education* of sports, the Miners' victory over the heavily favored Wildcats ushered college basketball specifically, and sports more generally, into the civil rights movement. Prior to this event, athletics remained largely insulated from the civil rights swell.

This bill recognizes the historic accomplishment of Coach Don Haskins and the 12 players from the 1966 team. These players deserve recognition today, and two of the gentlemen are close neighbors to my congressional district, Orsten Artis and Harry Flournoy, both from Gary, Indiana.

These men finished the basketball season with an impressive 28-1 record. Ultimately, Coach Haskins led the Miners to 33 winning seasons and 21 post-season appearances.

This resolution recognizes the incredible effect that the 1966 NCAA basketball championship of Texas Western, now the University of Texas at El Paso, had on promoting diversity in sports and accelerating racial integration in college sports. I am pleased to

support this resolution and urge its passage.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I will continue to reserve the balance of my time at this point.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to another good friend and colleague from the great State of Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Houston.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my dear friend from Texas, Congressman HINOJOSA, and of course, allow me to add my very, very, very sincere congratulations and appreciations to my friend and Representative from El Paso, the Honorable SILVESTRE REYES.

For those of you who are trying to get your eyes and your ears focused on this debate, let me just remind you of a celebrated movie by the name of "Glory Road." Today, we have the opportunity to celebrate the real deal, the real thing, and that team was known as Texas Western, now known as the University of Texas at El Paso.

Just think of 40 years ago, 1966, or 2 years after the 1964 Civil Rights Act, 1 year after the 1965 Voting Rights Act and 3 years after the tragedy of the four little girls in Birmingham. This was a tumultuous time in America's history, and so the idea of a coach, albeit the right idea, to place on the court of a basketball championship game five black boys, young men, to be able to play against the favored team, the University of Kentucky, was in itself a shocking, shocking occurrence.

But yet Don Haskins, a courageous or just a wise leader, decided to put his best foot forward, and out of that came the 1966 Texas Western team.

Might I congratulate all of the players: Bobby Joe Hill, Orsten Artis, Togo Railey, Willie Worsley, David Palacio, Dick Myers, Harry Flournoy, Louis Baudoin, Nevil Shed, Jerry Armstrong, Willie Cager, and right from the great city of Houston, now the fourth largest city in the Nation, David "Big Daddy" Lattin.

We are delighted to be able to join my colleagues from Texas to say that we are proud of that measure of civil rights history. We salute certainly the wisdom of Don Haskins, and remind America that sports and the playing field, whether they be courts, or tennis courts, whether they be the NFL playing field or whether they be the baseball field or the soccer field, we know that sports generate character and integrity, but it also develops teammanship. So the idea of the youngsters of America today playing on the playing fields of athletic America hopefully will create the new civil rights movement. And as a city that just experienced the All Star Game, I can tell you the whole game of basketball certainly represents diversity as we have our young men, and many of those who have come from foreign lands, but it also is an opportunity for

young men and women to work together.

I want to congratulate the manager of this bill, Congressman HINOJOSA, and congratulate Congressman REYES, for their wisdom in saluting these young men, and I am delighted to have been an original cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the proposed bill, H. Res. 668, "Celebrating the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Championship victory."

On March 19, 1966, Coach Don Haskins and his Texas Western College Miners advanced to the NCAA Championship game against the segregated, all-White University of Kentucky Wildcats. Coach Haskins made the decision to put in an all-Black starting lineup, something that had never been done before.

He made the announcement prior to the game and was thought to be a fool. It was the notion at the time that a team had to have at least one White player on the lineup to have a shot at winning a game, let alone the National Championship. Coach Haskins and his TW Miners shattered that school of thought with their triumphant win against the Wildcats.

The victory on the court was not only a victory for the Miners, but a victory for civil rights. When Coach Haskins made the decision to start an all-Black lineup, he did so not to make a statement about racial equality, but in his own words to "play my five best players. Race didn't matter to me."

The team's win was much more than simply a win on the basketball court signaling that a change had taken place in collegiate sports. The bold step taken by Don Haskins accelerated the pace that athletic teams were being integrated throughout the South.

The team's success did not come without a price. After the win Coach Haskins received over 40,000 hate mail letters, illustrating the climate of hostility towards African Americans in the South during that time.

The team's accomplishments both paralleled and contributed to the landmark events being made in the civil rights movement at the time. Basketball historian Neil Isaacs has called it the "Brown v. Board of Education of college basketball . . . Since that time, no pretender to basketball eminence has ever drawn a color line in its recruiting."

I am proud to say that one of the most influential players on the team, David Latin, hails from my district of Houston. The massive 6'7" Center, paved the way for the team, scoring 16 points in the title game. As a testament to Latin's skill, he advanced to the NBA as a first-round pick to play for the San Francisco Warriors.

The memory of the team and their magnificent 1966 NCAA Championship win has recently been captured in the Disney film "Glory Road." The memory of Coach Haskins has been solidified by his induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame for his remarkable achievements as a coach.

As a Member of Congress deeply concerned with advancing the causes of civil liberties and a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 59, a bill similar to the one before us, which recognized both the teams and players of African-American basketball teams for their achievement and contribution to basketball and to the Nation prior to the integration of the white professional leagues, I ask my colleagues to join with me in support of H. Res. 668.

Today we should rise and honor the memory of both the Texas Western College team and their coach, Don Haskins, who led them to a National Championship, and in doing so advanced the cause of civil rights and decreased segregation in athletics.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 668 to give recognition where recognition is long overdue. With this resolution, Congress applauds the groundbreaking significance of the 1966 NCAA Division I men's basketball championship in which Texas Western upset the heavily favored University of Kentucky. That year, the Miners had an all-Black starting line-up, a first in a national championship competition that helped change the perception of Black athletes.

Texas Western Coach Don Haskins and his players may not have set out to change history, but they did. The 1966 championship game helped pave the way for integration of athletics, opening sports to the civil rights movement, often being dubbed, the Brown v. Board of Education of sports. The next season, the Southwest Conference was integrated, and in 1967–68, Vanderbilt broke the Southeast Conference color barrier.

Unfortunately, it has taken decades before Coach Haskins and his players' achievements have been recognized. In 1966 there were no trips to the White House or appearances on the Ed Sullivan show, both customary for national champions. The team did not even receive national championship rings until their 20-year reunion in 1986.

It is time to recognize the profound contribution to the civil rights movement that this game spurred, and to recognize the 1966 NCAA Division I men's basketball champions, the Texas Western Miners. I urge my colleagues in joining me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 1966 Texas Western Men's Basketball Team. Their NCAA championship victory over Kentucky forever changed college athletics.

Even though it had been over a decade since Brown v. Board of Education, many colleges had lagged behind on implementing integration into their athletics programs. In 1966, college basketball players were often recruited on the basis of their skin color rather than playing ability. Texas Western coach Bob Haskins did not succumb to pressures to start his White players. He simply played his best players regardless of skin color.

This resulted in the first time an all-Black starting line-up participated in a major athletic championship contest. The impact was felt throughout the country when little-known Texas Western upset legendary all-White Kentucky.

Perhaps most important in this victory was the stereotypes and misconceptions that were broken down. For many, the assumption remained that Black players would not be skilled or smart enough to successfully compete against White players. Bob Haskins and Texas Western proved on a national stage that Black players can win and are as smart and talented as their White counterparts.

The 1966 Texas Western men's basketball team opened the doors for schools that had stalled in implementing integration policies into their athletics programs; breaking down barriers and forever changing college athletics.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Congressman SILVESTRE REYES for offering House Resolution 668, a resolution which celebrates this year's 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship.

The year of 1966 marked a number of "firsts" by African Americans. The Honorable Robert C. Weaver became the first African American Cabinet member with his appointment as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Edward Brooke became the first popularly elected African American to the United States Senate, and it also marked the first time a collegiate basketball team, the Texas Western Miners, sporting an all African American line-up won the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship.

What made this victory important, and what we are commemorating here today, is not the fact that a team starting all African American student athletes beat a team of all White student athletes. We commemorate rather, the closing of one more chapter of segregation and bigotry to a new chapter where we judge an individual on the content of their character and qualifications and not on the color of their skin.

The Texas Western Miners, in their victory over the University of Kentucky Wildcats, opened up numerous opportunities for student athletes of all races and creeds to attend college, participate in sports, and become eligible for athletic scholarships. The fact that the impact that this victory did so much to change the perception of African-American athletes and to speed the desegregation of intercollegiate sports, has lead many people to label this historic event as the Brown v. Board of Education of athletics.

Finally, any tribute to the Minors would be incomplete without acknowledging their coach, Don Haskins. Coach Haskins is to be commended for his continued commitment to build on the foundation of integration that he inherited at Texas Western—the first college in a Southern state to integrate its athletic teams—and for his courage in facing collegiate basketball's racial issues directly.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 40th anniversary of Texas Western's 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship. The title game had a profound impact on the state of racial integration in sports and civil rights in America.

On March 16, 1966, Coach Don Haskins led the first ever all-Black starting lineup to play in a major championship contest in a victory over the heavily-favored Kentucky Wildcats.

Coach Haskins played high school basketball in Enid, Oklahoma, and in college at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State). He then became a successful high school basketball coach in Texas. Haskins was a coach at Dumas High School before becoming the head of the men's team at Texas Western College, now the University of Texas at El Paso, in 1961.

Haskins coached the Miners to 33 winning seasons over the course of his career with the Miners. He won seven Western Athletic Conference championships, four Western Athletic Conference tournament titles, and made 21 post-season appearances. He established a proud winning tradition in the community of El Paso that still exists today. Coach Haskins was voted in to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997.

The Texas Western Miners' victory was a watershed moment for diversity in college athletics. It helped expand the civil rights movement into the realm of sports. On January 13, 2006, Walt Disney Pictures released *Glory Road*, which tells the story of the historic 1966 season and pays tribute to the dedication and bravery of Coach Haskins.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 668, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

LOUIS BRAILLE BICENTENNIAL—BRAILLE LITERACY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2872) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2872

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Louis Braille Bicentennial—Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Louis Braille, who invented the Braille method for reading and writing by the blind that has allowed millions of blind people to be literate participants in their societies, was born in Coupvray, a small village near Paris, on January 4, 1809.

(2) Braille lost his sight at the age of three after injuring himself with an awl in the shop of his father Rene, a maker of harnesses and other objects of leather.

(3) A youth who was both intelligent and creative and was blessed with dedicated parents, a thoughtful local priest and an energetic local schoolteacher, Braille adapted to the situation and attended local school with other youths of his age, an unheard-of practice for a blind child of the period.

(4) At the age of 10, when his schooling otherwise would have stopped, Braille—with the aid of the priest and schoolteacher—was

given a scholarship by a local nobleman and went to Paris to attend the Royal Institute for Blind Children where he became the youngest pupil.

(5) At the school, most instruction was oral but Braille found there were books for the blind—large, expensive-to-produce books in which the text was of large letters embossed upon the page.

(6) Soon Braille had read all 14 books in the school, but thirsted for more.

(7) A captain in Napoleon's army, Charles Barbier de la Serre, had invented "night writing", a method for communicating on the battlefield amidst the thick smoke of combat or at night without lighting a match—which would aid enemy gunners—that used dots and dashes that were felt and interpreted with the fingers, and later adapted the method for use by the blind, calling it Sonography because it represented words by sounds, rather than spelling.

(8) Braille adopted the Sonography method instantly but soon recognized that the basis in sound and the large number of dots—as many as 12—used to represent words was too cumbersome.

(9) By the age of 15, and using a blunt awl, the same sort of tool that had blinded him, Braille had developed what is essentially modern Braille, a code that uses no more than 6 dots in a "cell" of 2 columns of 3 dots each to represent each letter and contains a system of punctuation and of "contractions" to speed writing and reading.

(10) In contrast to the bulky books consisting of large embossed letters, Braille books can contain as many as 1000 characters or contractions on a standard 11-by-12-inch page of heavy paper, and to this day Braille can be punched with an awl-like "stylus" into paper held in a metal "slate" that is very similar to the ones that Louis Braille adapted from Barbier's original "night writing" devices.

(11) Also a talented organist who supported himself by giving concerts, Braille went on to develop the Braille representation of music and in 1829 published the first-ever Braille book, a manual about how to read and write music.

(12) 8 years later, in 1837, Braille followed that publication with another book detailing a system of representation of mathematics.

(13) Braille's talents were quickly recognized, and at 17 he was made the first blind apprentice teacher at the school, where he taught algebra, grammar, music, and geography.

(14) He and two blind classmates, his friends who probably were the first people to learn to read and write Braille, later became the first three blind full professors at the school.

(15) However, despite the fact that many blind people enthusiastically adopted the system of writing and reading, there was great skepticism among sighted people about the real usefulness of Braille's code, and even at the Royal Institute, it was not taught until after his death on January 6, 1852.

(16) Braille did not start to spread widely until 1868 when a group of British men—later to become known as the Royal National Institute for the Blind—began publicizing and teaching the system.

(17) Braille did not become the official and sole method of reading and writing for blind United States citizens until the 20th Century.

(18) Helen Keller, a Braille reader of another generation, said: "Braille has been a most precious aid to me in many ways. It made my going to college possible—it was the only method by which I could take notes on lectures. All my examination papers were copied for me in this system. I use Braille as a spider uses its web—to catch thoughts that

flit across my mind for speeches, messages and manuscripts."

(19) While rapid technological advances in the 20th Century have greatly aided the blind in many ways by speeding access to information, each advance has seen a commensurate drop in the teaching of Braille, to the point that only about 10 percent of blind students today are taught the system.

(20) However, for the blind not to know Braille is in itself a handicap, because literacy is the ability to read and the ability to write and the ability to do the two interactively.

(21) The National Federation of the Blind, the Nation's oldest membership organization consisting of blind members, has been a champion of the Braille code, of Braille literacy for all blind people and of the memory of Louis Braille, and continues its Braille literacy efforts today through its divisions emphasizing Braille literacy, emphasizing education of blind children and emphasizing employment of the blind.

(22) Braille literacy aids the blind in taking responsible and self-sufficient roles in society, such as employment: while 70 percent of the blind are unemployed, 85 percent of the employed blind are Braille-literate.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 400,000 \$1 coins bearing the designs specified in section 4(a), each of which shall—

- (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
- (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life and legacy of Louis Braille.

(2) OVERSE.—The design on the obverse shall bear a representation of the image of Louis Braille.

(3) REVERSE.—The design on the reverse shall emphasize Braille literacy and shall specifically include the word for Braille in Braille code (the Braille capital sign and the letters Brl) represented in a way that substantially complies with section 3 of Specification 800 of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress specifications for Braille, and is tactilely indiscernible from printed or written Braille.

(4) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

- (A) a designation of the value of the coin;
- (B) an inscription of the year "2009"; and
- (C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

- (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Federation of the Blind; and
- (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2009.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

- (1) the face value of the coins;
- (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and
- (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) SURCHARGE REQUIRED.—All sales of coins under this Act shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the the National Federation of the Blind to further its programs to promote Braille literacy.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Federation of the Blind shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received by the National Federation under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2872, a bill designed to advance a nationwide Braille literacy campaign by honoring Louis Braille with a commemorative coin to be issued in 2009, the bicentennial year of his birth.

Louis Braille created the code of raised dots for reading and writing that bears his name and brings literacy, independence, and productivity to the blind.

Born in 1809, Louis Braille became blind due to an accident in his father's

workshop. By believing in the capacity of the blind to learn, Braille demonstrated an understanding of blindness that was extraordinarily enlightened and positive for the times in which he lived.

Blind people today would be far less likely to achieve the goals of independence and productive living without the positive contributions Louis Braille made and the example he set throughout his life. Today, blind members of society are teachers, doctors, lawyers, scientists, mathematicians and much, much more because of Louis Braille.

A means of achieving literacy is vital for everyone, including, of course, people who are blind. Therefore, effective use of Braille is one of the most essential skills for blind people to achieve success. Research shows that more than 90 percent of employed persons who are blind use Braille.

Effective use of Braille is as important to the blind as independent mobility, knowledge in the use of adaptive technology, and the core belief that equality, opportunity and security are truly possible for all people who are blind.

The Louis Braille Commemorative Coin will feature representation of the image of Louis Braille on one side and will include the word for Braille in actual Braille code on the other side. The inclusion of Braille code on the commemorative coin is a significant and historic aspect of this bill.

In addition, all sales of the Braille Commemorative Coin will include a surcharge of \$10 per coin, which will be distributed to the National Federation of the Blind to promote Braille literacy. As a condition of receiving the proceeds from this surcharge, the National Federation of the Blind will be subject to annual audits to ensure that these proceeds, of course, are being spent for the authorized purpose and will be required to raise matching funds from private sources.

□ 1530

If all the coins authorized under this bill are sold, the surcharges could generate up to \$4 million plus the matching \$4 million that the National Federation of the Blind would be required to raise privately. That is potentially \$8 million to promote Braille literacy for all people in the country who are in need of Braille literacy. The Nation's blind would greatly benefit by this investment in Braille literacy.

The National Federation of the Blind has committed to raising their share of these funds and promoting Braille literacy with the proceeds. Based on our work with the NFB in the past, I know they are up to this task. I worked very closely with the NFB on the Help America Vote Act, Mr. HOYER and I both did, and Senators DODD and BOND and MCCONNELL in the Senate, in order to ensure that voting booths were equipped to allow the blind to vote independently without outside assistance. Their grass-roots advocacy and

unyielding support on that bill helped that dream become a reality for the Nation's blind.

Again, with this bill, the National Federation of the Blind put their grass-roots network into action to build overwhelming support for this commemorative coin. I'm confident this same grass-roots network will raise the matching funds required and effectively promote Braille literacy on a nationwide basis with the proceeds from this coin's surcharge.

The National Federation of the Blind currently fosters Braille literacy in a number of ways: from mentoring programs, in which experienced Braille readers as volunteers teach and encourage novices, to publishing instructions for schoolchildren, to research in effective methods of teaching and learning Braille, to one-on-one Braille instruction in residential training centers. Literacy in Braille is emphasized throughout its programs and services as an essential tool for blind persons to participate successfully in modern society.

The Federation emphatically links competence in the basic skills of blindness, like Braille, to its broader understanding of blindness, a condition feared above most others by society. When blindness occurs, the federation seeks, through its nationwide membership, to reach individuals, children, or adults who experience sight loss to convey the message that while blindness is not sought by anyone, obviously, everyone can successfully handle lack of sight with proper training and alternative skills, combined with a can-do attitude.

But even with that effort, only about 10 percent of blind children are taught Braille. Issuance of the Louis Braille commemorative coin can aid that effort, forming a springboard for a nationwide Braille literacy campaign drawing all these strands together and focusing the joint energy of thousands of volunteers powered by a big idea, resulting in high-profile attention to the literacy crisis amongst the blind while helping this broad volunteer corps to attract social attention to the positive thrust of the federation.

The story of Braille as a literacy tool and the story of the federation in emphasizing participation are parallel. Given the proper tools, we humans can overcome apparently insurmountable obstacles and achieve great things. Louis Braille, the man, did so. Hundreds of thousands of blind Americans do so every day. Hundreds of thousands of blind Americans could do so much more if they had the tool of literacy easily at hand and the can-do attitude to accompany it.

Honoring Louis Braille and promoting literacy for the blind will have lasting value for our society.

I want to thank Congressman BEN CARDIN for his cosponsorship of this important bill, and I want to thank over 300-some of our colleagues who have actually signed on to the bill, and

I appreciate the gentleman from Massachusetts being here today on this bill and all the input and work he has done on it.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to create the Louis Braille commemorative coin and help advance Braille literacy nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I agree with the words of the gentleman from Ohio.

First of all, let me express the regrets of our colleague from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) who was a major sponsor of this bill and who, I think, is the Representative of the National Federation of the Blind. He very much wanted to be here. He had a previous engagement, and he stayed here until the very last minute. I know he has a statement for the RECORD, but I did want to convey to people his having made an extraordinary effort to be here personally.

As I said, I agree with what the gentleman from Ohio said. I will say that I had inquired as to whether or not there might be some alternative financing arrangement. I appreciate this is a first-rate organization that makes enormous contributions. There are some other organizations that work in the field as well. But it was not possible to work anything out, and I did not want to stand in the way of this very important legislation, both in terms of commemorating Louis Braille and in terms of making the funding available.

So I give this legislation my support.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I rise in support of the proposed legislation of H.R. 2872, recognizing Louis Braille Bicentennial Braille literacy Commemorative Coin Act.

Louis Braille invented the Braille method for reading and writing by the blind that has allowed millions of blind people to be literate participants in their societies. Braille, who lost his sight at the age of three after injuring himself with an awl in the shop of his father, recognized that the basis in sound and the large number of dots as many as 12 used to represent words was too cumbersome. He developed a code that uses no more than 6 dots in a cell of 2 columns of 3 dots, each to represent each letter and contain a system of punctuation and of contractions to speed writing and reading. He later published another book detailing a system of representation of mathematics.

Braille's talents were quickly recognized and at 17, he was made the first blind apprentice teacher at the school, where he taught algebra, grammar, music and geography.

However, despite the fact that many blind people enthusiastically adopted the system of writing and reading, but there was great skepticism among sighted people about the real usefulness of Braille code. His literacy aids the blind in taking responsible and self-sufficient roles in society, such as employment. While 70% of the blind are unemployed, 85% of the employed blind are Braille-literate.

I propose that Secretary of the Treasury mint and issue no more than 400,000 one dollar coins bearing specific designs. The design

of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life and legacy of Louis Braille and the design on the obverse shall bear a representation of the image of Louis Braille.

I support H.R. 2872 for many foregoing reasons and I urge my colleagues to follow suit.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2872, and I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, for his leadership on this bill. It has been a pleasure to work with him in advancing this important legislation. I also want to extend my appreciation to Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK, of the Financial Services Committee, for their support.

This bipartisan bill celebrates the achievements of Louis Braille, who created a system of reading and writing for the blind that has gained widespread acceptance since his death more than one hundred fifty years ago. To mark the 200th anniversary of his birth in 1809, this bill authorizes the minting of \$1 coins bearing the image of Braille himself and emphasizing Braille literacy.

I want to particularly express my deep appreciation to the National Federation of the Blind for their vital advocacy for more than 1.3 million blind persons in the United States. Since its inception in 1940, the National Federation for the Blind has worked tirelessly to battle discrimination, increase public awareness, and develop and support technological advances.

The NFB also distributes *The Braille Monitor*, a monthly news publication, as well as online resources and a quarterly publication for the parents of blind children. With more than 50,000 members and affiliates in every state across America, NFB has led the way in demonstrating its ability to serve the interests of the blind population.

This bill holds special significance for me, as the National Federation of the Blind is headquartered in my Congressional district, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Marc Maurer, who has served as President of the National Federation of the Blind for 20 years, has shown exemplary leadership of this organization, as has the NFB's First Vice President, Joyce Scanlan, an active member since 1970. Sharon Maneki, President of the Maryland Chapter, has been instrumental in advancing the cause of blind persons throughout our state. I would also like to thank Jesse Hartle of the NFB for his hard work on behalf of the organization.

I am pleased to note that H.R. 2872 is co-sponsored by the entire Maryland delegation, as well as by more than 300 members of the House.

The NFB's mission statement declares that "the real problem of blindness is not the loss of eyesight but the misunderstanding and lack of information which exist." As part of this mission, the NFB has been campaigning to increase awareness of the Braille system of communication.

The Braille code became dominant in the United States during the 20th century, and it served as a gateway to education for the blind.

In recent years the Braille code has been in declining use among the blind population. It is currently taught to only about ten percent of blind students and is usually not taught at all to the elderly.

The NFB holds as one of its major goals the reintroduction of Braille into education for the

blind. Braille readers can read up to 400 words per minute, comparable to the speed of print readers. Braille is also essential for note-taking, mathematics and the study of foreign languages. Moreover, the computerization of Braille allows users to write much more rapidly than in the past.

Commemorating the contributions of Louis Braille is a worthy goal.

Increasing awareness of Braille and broadening opportunities for use as an educational tool are two other pivotal goals that this legislation will help achieve.

I want to thank my colleagues for their resounding support of H.R. 2872 and urge the House to help further the legacy of Louis Braille by voting for this bill.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2872, the "Louis Braille Bicentennial—Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act," introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. NEY.

Mr. Speaker, I confess I learned something reading this legislation. All of us know some blind people, and all of us, of course, see Braille writing in elevators and elsewhere as we move through our daily lives.

But sitting down and reading the story of the courage and the intelligence it must have taken for a young blind man 200 years ago in France to fight for an education for himself when many sighted kids his age weren't getting even a high school education, is remarkable. And doing it when there were very few books printed for the blind—those only with giant embossed letters—must have been excruciatingly slow and taken a huge amount of self-discipline. To have discovered and modified a method of communication used by the Army into something that could easily be reproduced and read—and more importantly written by the blind, which was not really the case with those giant embossed letters—was a truly revolutionary breakthrough.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, long before the amazing technology that we all take for granted, the blind who were taught to read and write Braille were able to live normal lives and participate fully in society. Still, and this is something else I learned, despite all the independence that reading and writing Braille confers on the blind, only about 10 percent of blind children are taught Braille. Thus, I support the provision in the bill that devotes income from surcharges on the sale of these coins to a Braille Literacy Program operated by the National Federation of the Blind. And I think it is important to note that the silver dollar coins that would be produced under this bill would all bear, on their reverse, a full-sized Braille abbreviation for Braille—the raised dots that form the letters BRL.

Mr. Speaker, this commemorative coin program, like all those that pass through the Financial Services Committee, proceeds at no cost to the taxpayer and requires the beneficiary, in this case the NFB, to raise from private sources an amount equal to or greater than the amount of surcharge income that will be received, and also demands strict post-disbursement audit process to ensure that the funds are used for their statutorily intended purpose. In this case, I have no doubt that the NFB can raise the matching funds and will use the income to really very effectively raise the profile of Braille literacy.

And so, Mr. Speaker, noting that 302 Members of the House have co-sponsored this bill, I urge its immediate passage.

I also submit for the RECORD the following exchange of correspondence:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2006.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Longworth House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I am writing concerning H.R. 2872, the "Louis Braille Bicentennial—Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act," which was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Financial Services on June 13, 2005. It is my expectation that this bill be scheduled for floor consideration in the near future.

As you know, section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters. However, I request that your committee forego action on H.R. 2872 in order to allow the bill to come to the floor expeditiously. I appreciate your cooperation in so doing, and agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include a copy of this letter and your response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2006.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2872, the "Louis Braille Bicentennial—Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act," which is scheduled for Floor action on Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

As you noted, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 2872 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation.

I appreciate and agree to your offer to include this exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from

Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2872, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1259) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1259

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt overruled his top generals and ordered the creation of an all Black flight training program. President Roosevelt took this action one day after the NAACP filed suit on behalf of Howard University student Yancy Williams and others in Federal court to force the Department of War to accept Black pilot trainees. Yancy Williams had a civilian pilot's license and had earned an engineering degree. Years later, Major Yancy Williams participated in an air surveillance project created by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

(2) Due to the rigid system of racial segregation that prevailed in the United States during World War II, Black military pilots were trained at a separate airfield built near Tuskegee, Alabama. They became known as the "Tuskegee Airmen".

(3) The Tuskegee Airmen inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces, paving the way for full racial integration in the Armed Forces. They overcame the enormous challenges of prejudice and discrimination, succeeding, despite obstacles that threatened failure.

(4) From all accounts, the training of the Tuskegee Airmen was an experiment established to prove that so-called "coloreds" were incapable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft. Studies commissioned by the Army War College between 1924 and 1939 concluded that Blacks were unfit for leadership roles and incapable of aviation. Instead, the Tuskegee Airmen excelled.

(5) Overall, some 992 Black pilots graduated from the pilot training program of the Tuskegee Army Air Field, with the last class finishing in June 1946, 450 of whom served in combat. The first class of cadets began in July 1941 with 13 airmen, all of whom had college degrees, some with Ph.D. degrees, and all of whom had pilot's licenses. One of the graduates was Captain Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a United States Military Academy graduate. Four aviation cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants, and 5 received Army Air Corps silver pilot wings.

(6) That the experiment achieved success rather than the expected failure is further evidenced by the eventual promotion of 3 of these pioneers through the commissioned officer ranks to flag rank, including the late

General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., United States Air Force, the late General Daniel "Chappie" James, United States Air Force, our Nation's first Black 4-star general, and Major General Lucius Theus, United States Air Force (retired).

(7) 450 Black fighter pilots under the command of then Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., fought in World War II aerial battles over North Africa, Sicily, and Europe, flying, in succession, P-40, P-39, P-47, and P-51 aircraft. These gallant men flew 15,553 sorties and 1,578 missions with the 12th Tactical Air Force and the 15th Strategic Air Force.

(8) Colonel Davis later became the first Black flag officer of the United States Air Force, retired as a 3-star general, and was honored with a 4th star in retirement by President William J. Clinton.

(9) German pilots, who both feared and respected the Tuskegee Airmen, called them the "Schwartzes Vogelmenschen" (or "Black Birdmen"). White American bomber crews reverently referred to them as the "Black Redtail Angels", because of the bright red painted on the tail assemblies of their fighter aircraft and because of their reputation for not losing bombers to enemy fighters as they provided close escort for bombing missions over strategic targets in Europe.

(10) The 99th Fighter Squadron, after having distinguished itself over North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, joined 3 other Black squadrons, the 100th, the 301st, and the 302nd, designated as the 332nd Fighter Group. They then comprised the largest fighter unit in the 15th Air Force. From Italian bases, they destroyed many enemy targets on the ground and at sea, including a German destroyer in strafing attacks, and they destroyed numerous enemy aircraft in the air and on the ground.

(11) 66 of these pilots were killed in combat, while another 32 were either forced down or shot down and captured to become prisoners of war. These Black airmen came home with 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, and Legions of Merit, one Presidential Unit Citation, and the Red Star of Yugoslavia.

(12) Other Black pilots, navigators, bombardiers and crewman who were trained for medium bombardment duty as the 477th Bomber Group (Medium) were joined by veterans of the 332nd Fighter Group to form the 477th Composite Group, flying the B-25 and P-47 aircraft. The demands of the members of the 477th Composite Group for parity in treatment and for recognition as competent military professionals, combined with the magnificent wartime records of the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group, led to a review of the racial policies of the Department of War.

(13) In September 1947, the United States Air Force, as a separate service, reactivated the 332d Fighter Group under the Tactical Air command. Members of the 332d Fighter Group were "Top Guns" in the 1st annual Air Force Gunnery Meet in 1949.

(14) For every Black pilot, there were 12 other civilian or military Black men and women performing ground support duties. Many of these men and women remained in the military service during the post-World War II era and spearheaded the integration of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(15) Major achievements are attributed to many of those who returned to civilian life and earned leadership positions and respect as businessmen, corporate executives, religious leaders, lawyers, doctors, educators, bankers, and political leaders.

(16) A period of nearly 30 years of anonymity for the Tuskegee Airmen was ended in 1972 with the founding of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., in Detroit, Michigan. Organized as a non-military and nonprofit entity, Tuskegee

Airmen, Inc., exists primarily to motivate and inspire young Americans to become participants in our Nation's society and its democratic process, and to preserve the history of their legacy.

(17) The Tuskegee Airmen have several memorials in place to perpetuate the memory of who they were and what they accomplished, including—

(A) the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., National Scholarship Fund for high school seniors who excel in mathematics, but need financial assistance to begin a college program;

(B) a museum in historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, Michigan;

(C) Memorial Park at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio;

(D) a statue of a Tuskegee Airman in the Honor Park at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

(E) a National Historic Site at Moton Field, where primary flight training was performed under contract with the Tuskegee Institute.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen, collectively, in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with the Tuskegee Airmen.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized under section 2.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1259, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), which would award a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the Congress can bestow, on the Tuskegee Airmen.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, this award is long, long overdue. Pilots of the 99th Fighter Squadron, including the first group of black pilots who trained at the little airstrip in Alabama near Tuskegee College, and later the 100th, 301st, and 302nd, were not even expected by some to be capable of meeting the challenge. Cruelly, studies commissioned by the Army War College in the 1920s and 1930s speculated that African Americans were capable neither of military leadership nor of flying increasingly complex fighter aircraft.

Tell that theory to Lee A. Archer, the young man from Yonkers who grew up dreaming of being a fighter pilot and reading comic books about the gallant fighter pilots of the First World War. Lee Archer flew 169 combat missions in his P-40 Tomahawk, P-39 Cobra, P-47 Thunderbolt, and his P-51 Mustang, known as the Macon Belle. He became an ace, notching five downed enemy aircraft in his career.

Tell that also to then-Captain Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a West Point grad, who was one of the first 13 pilots trained near Tuskegee and became the first black flag officer in the Air Force, retiring with three stars and being granted a fourth in retirement by President Clinton.

Tell that to Lieutenant Clarence "Lucky" Luster, who destroyed three German planes and earned a Distinguished Flying Cross the day Archer notched his first victory.

In all, Mr. Speaker, these men, who were not supposed to be able to fly, came home from piloting their distinctive, red-tailed fighters with 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze and Silver Stars and Legions of Merit, a Presidential Unit Citation, and even the Red Star of Yugoslavia. They also came home with the knowledge that no one could plausibly assert that a segregated armed services made any sense, and integration soon followed.

After the war, these men became business and political and civic leaders, many quite successful both in and outside the military, blazing trails at home the way they had blazed the trails in the skies of North Africa and Europe. Today, Mr. Speaker, we are here during Black History Month to add one more honor to that list.

The legislation before us, cosponsored by 308 Members of the House, seeks to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen as a group and give it to the Smithsonian for display, with provisions that the medal may be loaned out temporarily

to appropriate sites: perhaps to Moton Field in Alabama, where they trained, or to the Air Force Academy, where a statute of a Tuskegee Airman stands in Honor Park.

Rarely, Mr. Speaker, do we get to do something in this great Chamber that is so widely supported, so appropriate, and so long overdue. It is a pleasure to be here today with Mr. WATT, who is managing the bill, and also again with Mr. RANGEL and the many sponsors of this. Also, I can tell you that we were there for the 60th anniversary with Mr. RANGEL and the Speaker and leaders, and my wife and Mrs. Rangel, and it was a pleasure to be there on that historic day with our congressional delegation.

I commend Mr. RANGEL and the other Members for supporting this, and I urge immediate passage of H.R. 1259.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of this bill, but that is not why I am here. I am here because of the protocols of the House. The protocols of the House say that a bill goes through a committee and somebody on that committee should be controlling time. But the protocols of the House sometimes put you in a position that you know you are inadequate to effectively do, and that is my position today, because the real person who should be being honored by controlling time is the person who was the original cosponsor of this, my good friend and colleague, Representative RANGEL.

So I want to proudly say that I am a strong supporter of this bill, but I want to yield immediately to my colleague from New York, Representative RANGEL, as much time as he may consume.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the modesty of the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus amazes even me, because destiny would have it that this is the last day of African History Month and he is the chairman of the historic Congressional Black Caucus. So that shatters protocol, and I thank him for his friendship, his support and the leadership that he has given to all Americans through the Congressional Black Caucus.

Today probably will be one of the closest days to bipartisanship that this august body has seen in a long, long time. And, of course, Chairman NEY is right: what a historic day that was when we went and saw how many tens of thousands of Americans were prepared to give up their lives, knowing the dangers of the Normandy beachhead.

We were there with Sam Gibbons and the leadership, and it did make all of us so proud to be Americans that day. We were not Republicans, Democrats or liberals; we were just so proud that we had this great Nation that had gone

so far in providing her leadership for those who survived and for those who continue to serve.

We have 300 cosponsors of this bill in this body, and I am thoroughly convinced, Mr. Speaker, that the only reason we do not have the rest is that somebody on staff did not handle this right. Because there has been no one that has not felt proud to be able to say three things: thank you, thank you, thank you.

It is absolutely amazing how great this country is when you find young Americans, black as they may be, victims of racism though they may be, fighting to be able to defend this country against the Germans and the Italians and against the Japanese.

The NAACP fought and won the opportunity for this group of young people to be trained, even though the Army had already ruled that they could not be black airmen, or colored airmen or Negro airmen. So they won the right to put their lives on the line and share in the sacrifice to which this great Republic was attached.

I have to thank BARNEY FRANK. He gave me all the questions to ask Chairman OXLEY so that I could get the right answers in order to expedite the bill. And MIKE OXLEY has just been absolutely terrific, as has the Speaker in making sure that we guided this through the parliamentary procedure to be where we are today.

And talking about bipartisanship, Mr. HUNTER, the chairman of the Defense Committee, joined in with Mr. SKELTON, the ranking Democrat, to send a letter to all of his colleagues asking them to see their way clear to support this bill.

And, of course, the last is something that I have to thank Secretary Rumsfeld for. My book is not completed, and I am glad it is not, so I can thank him publicly for sending out a letter to the House and Senate recommending a gold medal for the historic Tuskegee Airmen. They fought not really just for black folks, but they fought for a better America. They fought for a better world. They were pioneers not only in fighting the war, but in showing and giving self-esteem to so many younger people, inspiring them to do what so many Americans just dream of doing, and that is to fly a plane in the defense of their country.

Even though they were denied all types of recognition during the time that they served, and even though they were subjected to all types of scourges by other people, they still continued to fight. There were 450 Tuskegee Airmen that served with the 99th Fighter Squadron and were able to then join with the 332nd Fighter Group in the 15th Air Force.

□ 1545

They flew 15,500 combat sorties, including more than 6,000 missions for the 99th Squadron before July 1944. Sixty-six pilots lost their lives and were killed in action. Thirty-two were

downed or became prisoners of war. And among the outfit they received 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, eight Purple Hearts and 14 Bronze Stars.

My colleagues, in all of the time that they were protecting American bombers on their missions from the United States to Europe, in all of that time, no matter how many times that they were shot down, they never lost a bomber, never lost a United States bomber throughout World War II. They set an example for all of us somehow to try to follow, and that is that the vestiges of slavery were not over then and they are not over now. And certainly, when we take a look at those brave young men and women that are fighting in Iraq, we cannot tell whether they are Republican or Democrats; and we do not care whether they are Black, White, or Brown. They are sharing the sacrifices that this great Nation is involved in.

I am so proud that because of my age, my community and my friendship, that the spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen is not involved with history books with me because one of those great airmen happens to be one of my very, very best friends, and that is Percy Sutton. Percy not only flew the planes but he was involved in intelligence and he provided the leadership, not just in the service, but became a leader in the civil rights movement and became a friend and advocate in support of Malcolm X, became the borough president of Manhattan, ran for mayor, and then when that did not work out, started out in business to become one of the most successful people in communication that we have had in the city and in the country.

And so, what did that mean to a CHARLIE RANGEL, who came from a depressed community? We had one symbol of hope. It was not World War II. It was restoring the Apollo Theater, and he brought back the Apollo, and with the empowerment zones, I invite all of you to be my guest in seeing the restoration of a historic beautiful community, Harlem. And Percy Sutton is the father and the creator of giving that type of leadership to my hometown.

What about Roscoe Brown?

Listen carefully. Roscoe Brown, with a single-engine fighter, was the first American to shoot down a German jet, with a propeller plane, was the first to shoot down a German jet fighter plane. And after this, he did not give up his struggle. He continued in education, became president of a university, and today still teaches in the Harlem community.

Lee Archer. As you pointed out, Mr. Chairman, a guy who dreamed as a kid and fulfilled that dream and then finally went into business and even today, even though he is retired, provides the leadership for small business people and others.

As we salute these people today, it gives us an opportunity to think about today and tomorrow, where color

should never be an issue with those people that should not have to put their lives on the line to be respected as being Americans who are fully entitled to all of the benefits.

And to the Members today, I am certain that I speak for the members of the Tuskegee Airmen, let this be the beginning. As we say thank you, let me never have to apologize for forgetting someone or not giving them an opportunity. Let this be the day where Democrats and Republicans can come together, ranking Members and majority Members, in saying as we look at the past and see where we made mistakes; let this be the guidance to provide leadership for all of us to avoid the opportunities in the future.

To all of you who have supported the bill, on behalf of those survivors and their families of the Tuskegee Airmen, I say three things: thank you, thank you, and thank you very much.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and I thank my colleague, the ranking member, Mr. RANGEL, for his dedication and perseverance in obtaining the highest congressional honor for one of the most courageous groups of Americans, the Tuskegee Airmen. At a time when civil rights were still being denied and segregation persisted through many parts of our country, the Tuskegee Airmen bravely fought and gave their lives abroad for freedom and liberty that sadly oftentimes they did not receive here at home.

Before 1940, the African Americans were denied the right to fly with the United States military. However, from 1942 to 1946, the Tuskegee Airmen graduated 992 airmen from the pilot training program of the Tuskegee Army airfield, while 450 served in combat.

For every African American pilot, there were 10 other civilian or military African American men and women on the ground performing support duties. Many of them remained in the military during the post-World War II era and spearheaded the integration of the armed services with the integration of the Air Force in 1949.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to go to Iraq about a year ago and visited with the 332nd Fighter Group, the follow-on from the 99th Fighter Squadron that was the Tuskegee Airmen and had a chance to visit with the wonderful men and women who make up that 332nd Fighter Squadron. What a group they are. And they certainly recognize their roots. They recognize the heritage, the valiant heritage of the 99th Fighter Squadron. In fact, Balad air base, where this fighter group is stationed in Iraq, is the site for the Air Force's contingent aeromedical staging facilities where all the casualties in Iraq are brought to this central staging facility, stabilized, flown from Balad to Landstuhl, Germany and then subsequently flown from Landstuhl back

here to Walter Reed in the United States.

When I was there in February, they had performed 19,000 such transfers from the battlefield with one inter-transfer death. I had an opportunity to go back in August of this past year, in 2005: 27,000 patient transfers, again only the one intertransfer death.

Clearly, these men and women are following that great tradition that was started by the 99th Fighter Squadron. Well, sadly today, only 200 of the original Tuskegee Airmen are still with us. I am fortunate to have three of these courageous men living in the district that I represent: Mr. Don Elder, Mr. Robert McDaniel and Mr. Claude Platt. Recently, the Claude R. Platt VFW Tuskegee Airmen chapter was formed. And I am confident that others will benefit greatly from this chapter's rich history and legacy.

Gentlemen, thank you very much for your service and your dedication to your country. I am honored and privileged to represent you before the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the mayor of my town of Highland Village, Texas, back home is the son of a Tuskegee Airman. Mayor Bill Lawrence was born and grew up in Tuskegee, Alabama; and his father served proudly with the 99th Fighter Squadron.

The 26th Congressional District of Texas also pays tribute to the brave men through the National Cowboys of Color museum located in Fort Worth, Texas. A wing of the museum is dedicated to the Claude R. Platt VFW Tuskegee Airmen chapter. The wing is the home of a number of personal artifacts, autographed paintings of the airmen in training, proclamations and other items of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, if you are ever in north Texas, Mr. Ranking Member, if you are ever in north Texas, I encourage you to visit this museum and learn more about the sacrifices and the contributions of these heroic Americans.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to thank Ranking Member RANGEL for his bringing forth this legislation honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their service and dedication to our country. We cannot say it enough. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes and 10 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina. Let me, as well, appreciate the fact, as Mr. RANGEL has said, that we have a bipartisan moment. I thank the chairman, Mr. NEY, for his support and leadership.

Mr. RANGEL, might I acknowledge you for a brilliant stroke of patriotic genius, for you have recognized that those who battled on the forefront of World War II, who may have worn a

different skin color, came home not in dishonor, but not with much honor. And so I am very humbled to have been one of the cosponsors to join you in the recognition, collectively, of the numbers of airmen who can claim Tuskegee, Alabama and the Tuskegee Institute as a starting point of them being able to reach their dreams of serving on the front lines in World War II and fighting for their America.

As Mr. RANGEL said earlier, these individuals suffered in a segregated America and, in fact, were rejected and rebuffed when they asked to join the United States military to sacrifice their lives. But they were persistent, and they got called to be the Tuskegee Airmen and there were personnel sent from Washington to train them. And sometimes they were thinking, why did I get this assignment? But now we are here today to honor them with a Congressional Gold Medal, some 992 black pilots, and then of course, any number of civilians who were likewise engaged.

Thirty years after the war was over, you heard nothing about the Tuskegee Airmen. And then, of course, they did the wise thing by establishing the first club.

I too have a personal story, because I am proud to say that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was a Tuskegee Airman; and from the time of my marriage in the early years, what an honor to travel around him or to meet those gentlemen. I was honored to be able to see those gentlemen in their distinguished jackets, senior as they were, but proud and strong. Thank you, Mr. RANGEL. Thank you to the Tuskegee Airmen. Thank you, America, for recognizing these battle-worn soldiers. God bless them and God bless America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1259, "to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces."

On July 19, 1941 the American Air Force created an all black flight training program at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The Tuskegee Airmen were not only unique in their military record, but they inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces, paving the way for integration of the armed services in the U.S.

The first class of cadets began in July 1941 with 13 men, all of whom had college degrees, some with PhD's and all had pilot's licenses. From all accounts, the training of the Tuskegee Airmen was an experiment established to prove that "coloreds" were incapable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft. Stationed in the segregated South, the black cadets were denied rifles.

The Tuskegee Airmen were credited with 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa. They destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. "We proved that the antidote to racism is excellence in performance," said retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter, who started his military career as a pilot and maintenance officer with

the Tuskegee Airmen's 99th Fighter Squadron. Clearly, the experiment, as it was called, was an unqualified success.

The Tuskegee Airmen were awarded three Presidential Unit Citations, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses and Legions of Merit, along with the Red Star of Yugoslavia, nine Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars and more than 700 Air medals and clusters. It goes without question that the Tuskegee Airmen are deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal.

I would like to thank Congressman RANGEL for his work in bringing this legislation to the floor of Congress, and his efforts in gathering 308 cosigners. This is an important, and long overdue piece of legislation. I ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to give their support to H.R. 1259, authorizing "the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen . . ."

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHWARZ).

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of meeting the Tuskegee Airmen, the survivors, on a number of occasions. A number of them live in my home State of Michigan, especially Major General Lucius Theus, who lived in Detroit, a distinguished member of the Tuskegee Airmen. They last rallied in Michigan at Jackson, Michigan, in the summer of 2004; and our colleague from the other body, Senator MCCAIN, and I were privileged to be at that meeting and greet the airmen.

As the unit approached its first year in action, it learned that it was being transferred to the 332nd Fighter Group, a unit activated at Tuskegee in mid-1942 and transferred to Michigan in 1943 where it conducted training at Selfridge Air Base and Oscoda Air Base, both in the eastern side, on the eastern side of the State of Michigan, before deploying to Italy. The 332nd was composed of four African American squadrons, the 99th 100th, 301st, and 302nd under the command of Colonel Davis.

Not long after arriving in Italy, the members of the 332nd were heavily involved in combat missions. Assigned to bomber escort with the 15th Air Force, it escorted the bombers on missions around Italy, flew on the raids to the access oil refineries in Ploesti, Romania, and strafed German troops retreating from Greece. It established a reputation for protecting its bombers. The pilots always followed Colonel Davis' orders. Your job is to protect the bombers and not chase enemy aircraft for personal glory, he said. The Germans called the 332nd the Schwartz Vogrl Menshen, the black birdmen, and began to see a plane with a red tail as something to fear.

On March 24, 1945, the 332nd went on the longest mission flown by the 15th Air Force to the Daimler-Benz tankworks in Berlin. On this mission, it downed three of the new Messerschmitt ME-262 jet fighters. The group received a distinguished unit citation for its performance that day.

At the end of the war, the Tuskegee Airmen returned to an America that was as segregated as the one they had left.

□ 1600

Some of the veterans became leaders in the fight for desegregation, both military and civilian. With their own community, they offered pride and encouragement. And to the white community they offered an example of the equality of men. The Air Force became desegregated in April of 1948. Unfortunately, the rest of the Nation would take much longer. But there is no doubt that the example, professionalism, and expertise of the Tuskegee Airmen hastened that day.

It is fitting today, then, Mr. Speaker, that this bill would bestow the Congressional Gold Medal, our body's highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions, upon the members of the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their service to our country during World War II and in the years after that conflict. They are living examples of what is possible when racism is defeated and opportunities are equally available to all members of our great country.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot rise to the heights of CHARLIE RANGEL, but I rise in tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen. For years, it seems we have considered bills honoring the contributions of these heroic airmen. It is about time this one passed and passed with huge support.

Their achievements in support of our efforts in World War II have inspired books and movies. They have earned decorations and awards for valor that are too numerous to cite. As Mr. RANGEL noted, 992 graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee; 450 went overseas to North Africa and Italy; some 150 died either in training or in combat missions. And yet, though they were shot down, not a single bomber, as Mr. RANGEL noted, among the many they escorted was ever shot down.

While their accomplishments have been recognized by the military, the military in truth cannot adequately honor all of their accomplishments because these men fought and won other battles that were not military in nature. They defied those who thought they lacked the intelligence, the skills, the courage, even the patriotism to fly and fight. Their courage in the air is legendary, but their courage on the ground and in our society made their achievements in the air all the more meaningful and remarkable.

Today, the impact of the Tuskegee Airmen reaches far beyond the skies of Italy and North Africa. Their service led to social changes in our country that include the integration of our Armed Forces. In 1948, Harry Truman

signed Executive Order 9981, directing equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the armed services. President Truman's order ended racial segregation in the military and was a major step towards ending racial segregation in the United States of America.

Today, we recognize the Tuskegee Airmen for valor in battle, but also for accomplishments that succeeded, that transcended the battlefield like Executive Order 9981. The Tuskegee Airmen, the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332d Fighter Group, not only deserve the Congressional Gold Medal, they will add luster to it.

I salute the Tuskegee Airmen and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 1941, the United States military began a revolutionary program in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots. The program helped change military culture and negative perceptions of blacks in the military, especially the Air Corps.

The Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, the famed school of learning founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881, and I am a descendant of his, conducted flight training for aspiring black pilots; and my cousin, still alive, living here, Ira O'Neal, was one of those pilots. The first classes of Tuskegee Airmen were trained to be fighter pilots for the famous 99th Fighter Squadron slated for combat duty in North Africa. By the end of the war, 992 men had graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee, 450 of whom were sent overseas for combat assignment. I should also note that 16,000 men and women supported the Tuskegee Airmen program.

Mr. Speaker, the 450 pilots that flew combat missions over North Africa and Europe, five of them live in the 33rd Congressional District of Los Angeles and Culver City, which I represent. And they are Wilbert Johnson, William B. Ellis, Elbert T. Hudson, Samuel R. Hughes, and Roger B. Duncan.

Mr. Speaker, although pilots that flew twin-engine aircraft did not see combat, it does not take away from the barriers that broke because of their service. In my district there is an individual that flew twin-engine bombers. He is Oscar H. York.

Many others who were not pilots supported the Tuskegee Institute and are original members of the Tuskegee Airmen. These individuals also live in my district. And they are Floyd J. Cawthon, Jerry T. Hodges, Jr., Flora M. Lane, John Lehman, Theodore G. Lumpkin, Jr., Levi H. Thornhill, and Albert L. Wallace.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge both the historic as well as the heroic role all members of the Tuskegee Airmen played in securing our Nation's freedom as well as changing our Nation's culture and perception of African Americans.

Once again, I congratulate Congressman RANGEL for introducing this historic resolution of acknowledgment.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WATT and certainly Mr. RANGEL for their leadership on this, and Mr. NEY of Ohio for his leadership on this.

What an honor it is for me to stand here and to speak some words about the extraordinary contributions that the Tuskegee Airmen have made. Let me begin by simply setting the stage, because I think it is very important for us to understand the environment, the time that this activity happened in American history, for us to truly understand the significance of the Tuskegee Airmen. Let us go back for a moment to that time, and let us take a look at what was going on at that time.

In 1921, Benjamin O. Davis had early on, as one of our leading African Americans in the military, put forward the proposition that black men should be trained to fight, but yet there was great hesitation. As a matter of fact, the Federal Government issued a study which said that African American men were incapable, did not have the skill, the courage, the fortitude, and, in fact, they felt inferior to white people, so that they did not have the courage to do this, this at a time in 1921 when the first woman to even get a license to fly was an African American woman by the name of Bessie Queenie Coleman, and she flew as a daredevil.

Circle back to 1941. It was not until then that they gave the Tuskegee Airmen an opportunity at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, founded by Booker T. Washington.

And the story tells it all. For there is no greater story of freedom and American democracy than that story of the Tuskegee Airmen who, with bravery and courage, went and fought for the freedom of this country and the world while yet back at home African American citizens were second-class citizens.

So when we talk about the Tuskegee Airmen, it is more than just their flying. It is their extraordinary stand for courage in the face of difficulty. We salute the Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I will not take it all.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to note and pay tribute to what I am told are approximately 20 Tuskegee Airmen, who are still living and reside in North Carolina, and mention some of their names, from my congressional district two of them: from Greensboro, Harvey Alexander; from Salisbury, Fred Wilson. And from other parts of the State, I do not have all of their names, but I do want to pay tribute to the ones that I have: from Lenoir, North Carolina, George Shade; from Durham, William MacDonald and Dr. Stuart Fulbright;

from Raleigh, North Carolina, my good friend Dr. Harold Webb, whom I have known forever, and Walter Chavis; from Smithfield, North Carolina, Hernando Palmer; and from Dudley, North Carolina, Wilson Eagleson, II.

I want to thank my colleague, Representative RANGEL, again for taking the lead in putting all this together to make this a truly bipartisan recognition of truly heroic and brave airmen.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me just say it is a great day for the Tuskegee Airmen. It is a great day for the United States, and it is a shining day for this institution of the House.

I think that if you look at the quote from Langston Hughes, a great African American poet, "Dream your dreams, but be willing to pay the sacrifice to make them come true," our veterans have done that historically throughout the history of this country, and the Tuskegee Airmen have done that.

Again, I thank Congressman RANGEL for giving them the honor they so much deserve.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1259, authorizing the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the Tuskegee Airmen. At a time when their country did not see fit to protect their rights, these brave young men nonetheless served valiantly on behalf of all American citizens.

During the Second World War, African Americans were essentially second-class citizens in American society, and unfortunately this characterization did not end at the water's edge. Not permitted to train as aviators with their white comrades during World War II, 992 brave young men completed pilot training at Tuskegee's Moton Field, at the school founded by Booker T. Washington; 450 of these airmen were sent overseas for combat assignment, and 66 gave their lives during combat flights.

The Tuskegee Airmen populated the famed 99th Fighter Squadron and saw combat duty in North Africa. Others joined the 332nd Fighter Group, which flew missions from bases in Italy. Still others served similarly important roles as mechanics, gunners, and engineers.

Among these brave airmen are several individuals whose stories begin or end in the 12th Congressional District of New Jersey. As a young man, Robert Griffin worked at the local airport in Princeton, New Jersey, washing and refueling airplanes, earning just a few precious minutes of flying time per week. Though the Air Force would not train him as a fighter pilot due to his race, he eventually found a home at the Tuskegee Institute, becoming one of the first black flight mechanics. He later served in the U.S. Air Force after integration, and flew refueling and support missions for 13 years.

A current resident of Ewing, New Jersey—Retired Lieutenant Colonel Edward Harris—received his pilot's license from Tuskegee Institute and Tuskegee Army Air Base in 1944. He served 27 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired as commander of the 2017 Communications Group at McGuire Air Force Base. He subsequently served in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and currently resides in Ewing with his wife Delores.

Mr. Speaker, the Tuskegee Airmen are true testament to the selfless sacrifice and brave

service that the U.S. Armed Forces seek to instill in its soldiers, sailors, and airmen. I rise in support of H.R. 1259, and commend all those who would stand tall for their country before their country would not stand tall for them.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1259. By authorizing the Tuskegee Airmen to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, we are not only recognizing an exemplary military record, but also strength of character in the face of prejudice and racism. The Tuskegee Airmen, a unit of 1,000 African American pilots, were America's first black military airmen. Trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, these men had to overcome biased notions of their fighting ability.

After graduation from pilot training at Tuskegee, 450 members of the unit were sent overseas for combat assignments. These men saw extensive action, completing 15,000 missions between 1941–1946 without losing one American bomber during any escort mission. Collectively they earned more than 744 medals and their heroic service led to the greater achievement of integrating the U.S. Armed Forces—a watershed event in American history. Their brave actions broke forever the myths that allowed segregation, inequity and injustice toward African-Americans to exist in our military.

Today, the remaining survivors, now in their 80's, are role models to generations of young men and women both in and outside of the military. The Tuskegee Airmen persevered and by sharing their stories have taught generations of Americans about the high price of freedom.

They were dedicated and determined young men who came from every section of the country. I am particularly proud to recognize the 38 airmen who were from the State of Virginia, 10 of whom are still living. The living Virginia Tuskegee Airmen are Howard Baugh of Petersburg, Wiley Selden of Norfolk, Grant Williams of Hampton, Ezra Hill of Hampton, Francis Home of Hampton, Theodore Wilson of Roanoke, William Green of Staunton, Carl Johnson of Charlottesville, Augustus Palmer of Newport News and Floyd Carter of Norfolk.

These men served as trailblazers in the efforts to create equal rights and equal treatment for all people. It is my honor to thank them for their service, legacy and rich heritage.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to the Tuskegee Airmen, whose outstanding valor in World War II inspired revolutionary reform in the U.S. Armed Services. H.R. 1259 which I introduced on March 10, 2005 recognizes these achievements and on behalf of the people of the United States conferring upon the Tuskegee Airmen the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest award. Today, I stand before this House with unbounded joy and pride as we prepare to enact this legislation honoring the Tuskegee Airmen who are still with us and honoring those who have passed on. I feel the joy of the wives and widows sons and daughters of Tuskegee Airmen who have waited a long time for this day.

I wish to thank the more than 300 Members of the House who signed on as cosponsors making this a truly bipartisan effort. I wish to commend particularly Chairman MICHAEL OXLEY and Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK, of the authorizing Committee on Financial

Services as well as Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER and Ranking Member IKE SKELTON of the Armed Services Committee who made a bipartisan appeal to the entire House in support of this bill. I would be remiss not to mention Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld who commended this bill to the Members of the House.

WHO ARE THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN?

The term "Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in a program the War Department established as a segregated unit in the Army Air Force (AAF) which was termed the "Tuskegee Experiment." The program began on July 19, 1941 with primary training for the first flying cadets but it went on to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators and bombardiers.

Before 1940 African Americans were barred from flying in the United States Army. African Americans were believed to be lacking in qualifications for combat duty. In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt overruled his top generals and ordered the creation of an all Black flight training program. This action followed a pioneering civil rights lawsuit the NAACP filed in Federal Court on behalf of Yancy Williams and others to force the Department of War to accept African American pilot trainees.

On July 19, 1941, the Army Air Force (AAF) began a program in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots. Due to the rigid system of racial segregation that prevailed in the United States during World War II, Black military pilots were trained at a separate airfield, Moton Field, built by Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The Primary flight training was conducted by the Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute.

When the first classes of Tuskegee Airmen were completed, they were trained to be fighter pilots for the famous 99th Fighter Squadron, slated for duty in North Africa. Additional pilots were assigned to the 332d Fight Group which flew combat along with the 99th Squadron from bases in Italy.

The first aviation cadet class began in July 1941 and completed training nine months later in March 1942. Thirteen started in the first class. Five successfully completed the training, one of them being Captain Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a West Point Academy graduate. The other four were commissioned second lieutenants, and all five received Army Air Corps silver pilot wings.

From 1942 through 1946, 994 pilots graduated at the TAAF receiving commissions and pilot wings. Black navigators, bombardiers and gunnery crews were trained at selected military bases elsewhere in the United States. Mechanics were trained at Chanute Air Base in Rantoul, Illinois until facilities were in place in 1942 at the Tuskegee Army Air Force Base.

Four hundred and fifty of the pilots who were trained at TAAF served overseas in either the 99th Pursuit Squadron (later the 99th Fighter Squadron) or the 332nd Fighter Group. The 99th Fighter Squadron trained in and flew P-40 Warhawk aircraft in combat in North Africa, Sicily and Italy from April 1943 until July 1944 when they were transferred to the 332nd Fighter Group in the 15th Air Force.

Nine-hundred and ninety-two Black pilots graduated from the pilot training program of the TAAF, with the last class finishing in June 1946. The Tuskegee Airmen who many

thought would fail in combat, instead accomplished an outstanding combat record. They flew over 15,000 combat sorties, including more than 6,000 missions for the 99th Squadron prior to July 1944. They destroyed 111 German airplanes in the air and another 150 on the ground. They destroyed 950 railcars, trucks and other motor vehicles and sunk one destroyer with P-47 machine gun fire. They established a sterling record: No United States bombers were lost under escort of the 332nd, a unique achievement.

Sixty-six Tuskegee pilots were killed in action or accidents; thirty-two were downed and became prisoners of war. Among them the Tuskegee pilots received 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 8 Purple Hearts and 14 Bronze Stars.

The Black fighter group, the 332nd, was made up of the 99th, 301st and 302nd Fighter squadrons. Individually and collectively the Tuskegee Airmen revealed the racism, bigotry and the lie underlying the conclusion of the 1925 Army War College Study that Blacks lacked intelligence and were cowardly under combat conditions; and therefore they would never be able to fly aircraft of any type. Although African American could work at unskilled jobs in segregated units in World War II, the Army War College's conclusion that they could not handle aircraft in combat had kept them from any training.

African American civil rights advocates raised their voices against this racism. The NAACP sued the government on behalf of Yancy Williams to allow him to be accepted as an aviation cadet. The Tuskegee Experiment was a response to civil rights advocacy. It is a lasting tribute to these early civil rights pioneers and the NAACP that Blacks finally allowed to train the day after Yancy Williams filed his lawsuit.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. They proved conclusively that Black Americans could fly and maintain sophisticated combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen's achievements, together with the men and women who supported them, paved the way for full integration in the United States Military.

The outstanding record of Tuskegee Airmen in World War II was accomplished by men whose names will forever live in hallowed memory. Each one accepted the challenge, proudly displayed his skill and determination while suffering humiliation and indignation caused by frequent experiences of racism and bigotry, at home and overseas. These airmen fought two wars—one against a military force overseas and the other against racism at home and abroad. They fought for rights of the people of the United States, when they were not entitled to those rights themselves.

The outstanding record of Tuskegee Airmen in World War II was accomplished by men whose names will forever live in hallowed memory. I am proud that my Colleagues in the House of Representatives have been supportive of this bipartisan bill to honor these men of valor.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1259, a Resolution authorizing the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the Tuskegee Airmen.

This recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen, members of an elite group who fought valiantly for America's freedoms overseas while

overcoming racial discrimination, is long overdue. Their story deserves to be told often, not just during this month of February, to remind all Americans of the many sacrifices made along the way by Americans of color in the military who faced discrimination here at home.

I have the privilege of representing four Tuskegee Airmen who reside in my Congressional District: Robert Holts, Ralph Orduna, and Charles Lane, all of Omaha and just south of Omaha in Bellevue, Harry Tull. A fifth Airman, Paul Adams, lives in nearby Lincoln, Nebraska. I am especially proud to note that Colonel Lane of Omaha was the youngest black fighter in World War II. His daughter, Karen Davis, is a longtime member of my District Office staff.

I also want to mention Omaha native Alphonza Davis, who graduated from Omaha Tech High School and later Omaha University. He finished first in his class at Tuskegee and was chosen squadron leader. He was killed in combat in 1944 while over Germany. The local Tuskegee Airmen chapter in Omaha is named after him.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the Tuskegee Airmen was written in the context of racial segregation that existed in our country during World War II. African Americans who wanted to fly in the military were trained at a separate location near Tuskegee, Alabama. The Tuskegee Airmen, known as the Red Tails because of the crimson tails on their aircraft, were the first squadron of African American combat pilots in the U.S. military. Nearly 1,000 men had graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee by the end of the war.

Under the command of Colonel Benjamin Davis, Jr., these aviators served in combat in campaigns in North Africa, Sicily and Europe. Colonel Davis later became the first African American general in the U.S. Air Force.

The Tuskegee Airmen and their record of success during the war are unmatched. Not a single American bomber protected by the Red Tails was ever shot down by enemy aircraft. By war's end, the Tuskegee Airmen had flown over 15,000 sorties, completed over 1,500 missions, destroyed more than 260 enemy aircraft, and more than 1,000 enemy vehicles on the ground. The Airmen were awarded 744 Air Medals, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, and 8 Purple Hearts.

I join my colleagues in recognizing the Tuskegee Airmen for their gallant and heroic achievements and urge adoption of H.R. 1259. The award of gold medals to these national heroes is only a small token of the thanks they richly deserve for their service to our Nation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1259, which recognizes the Tuskegee Airmen for their exemplary performance during World War II, and for paving the way for full integration of the U.S. military. I commend Mr. RANGEL for H.R. 1259, which recognizes the Tuskegee Airmen with a Congressional Gold Medal.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the Nation's first African-American fighter pilots at a time when many people thought that African American men lacked intelligence, skill, courage, and patriotism to become pilots. In spite of adversity and limited opportunities, the Tuskegee Airmen defied stereotypes and played a significant role in U.S. military history.

The first Tuskegee Airmen aviation class began in July 1941 and completed training

March 1942. African American navigators, bombardiers, gunnery crews, maintenance, instructors, and mechanics were trained to be members of the 332nd Fighter group.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice. Nine hundred and ninety-four pilots received commissions and pilot wings. Four hundred and fifty pilots served overseas in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. The Tuskegee Airmen combat record is impressive, including 66 pilots killed in action; 32 pilots captured; no bombers lost while being escorted by the 332nd, a unique achievement; 111 German airplanes were destroyed in the air, and 150 German airplanes were destroyed on the ground.

The Tuskegee Airmen proved conclusively that African Americans could fly and maintain sophisticated combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen received numerous honors, including: 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses; 850 Medals; 14 Bronze Stars; and 9 Purple Hearts.

By the end of World War II, the 332nd became one of the most highly respected fighter squadron despite prejudice and social equality. The Tuskegee Airmen's achievements must be remembered in the spirit of the heroic Air Force role in the global war on terrorism. With this in mind, I stand today to support H.R. 1259 to express the sense of Congress that the U.S. Air Force should never forget the courage of the Tuskegee Airmen by honoring them with a Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 1259, which authorizes the President to award the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. In 1941, an experiment that began as an effort to prove the validity of a 1925 study that claimed African Americans lacked both the intelligence and courage to fly planes during combat, finished as a monumental testament that African Americans had both the aptitude, skill and valor, to not only become military pilots, but to meet and exceed any challenge presented. I also want to take this time to thank and congratulate my good friend and colleague, Representative CHARLIE RANGEL for introducing this legislation.

The story of the Tuskegee Airmen began when Yancy Williams, a Howard college student sued the U.S. Government for the right to participate as an aviation cadet. The Government was forced to either prove that blacks could not learn to fly or to accept them into their civilian pilot training program. As a result, a separate, all-black training facility was built by the Army Air Corps at Tuskegee Army Airfield. Though great racism existed at that time, and many of the original instructors were white, there was very little bias and prejudice reported by instructors during the training.

The first class of the Tuskegee Airmen graduated 5 of 13 cadets, who were made a part of the famous 99th Fighting Squadron. Additional pilots were assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group. Though it was 8 months after the second class graduated, the 99th Fighting Squadron finally deployed to the North Africa as a part of the Allied Armies. The Airmen soon built their reputation as both talented and fearless. The Germans nicknamed them "Schawarte Vogelmenshen" or Black Birdmen, they also earned the nickname, Redtail Angels, from American bombing crews, due to their reputation for being the only unit who never lost a bomber to enemy fighters during escort missions.

In all, between 1942 and 1946, 926 black pilots earned their wings and commissions and 450 of those pilots saw combat during World War II. As a result of their combat service, the Tuskegee Airmen logged 15,533 sorties in the skies over North Africa, Italy and Germany. They destroyed or damaged 409 enemy aircraft, fuel and ammunition dumps and escorted 200 bomber missions. In total, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 8 Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals and Clusters and 3 Distinguished Unit Citations. This record is a soaring achievement that speaks to the depth of talent, heart and courage that they all exemplified. There were also huge human costs for their sacrifice as the Airmen suffered 66 combat deaths, and 33 were captured as prisoners of war. The sacrifice and contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen were the catalyst for President Truman issuing Executive Order 9981, which as of July 26, 1948, desegregated the United States Armed Forces.

The Tuskegee Airmen's contribution to this country is immeasurable. Their display of heroism and perseverance deserves our eternal gratitude. The Tuskegee Airmen are indeed justified of receiving Congress's highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, they never lost a bomber.

The African-American fighter pilots we know today as the Tuskegee Airmen, flew more than 15,000 sorties, mostly bomber-support missions, over North Africa, Sicily and Europe during World War II. They downed roughly 500 enemy aircraft, and sank a destroyer—and they destroyed an awful lot of prejudice in the process.

It wasn't easy. More than 10 percent—66—were killed; 32 were downed and became prisoners of war. But all thousand or so who were trained at Moton Field near the old Tuskegee College in Alabama, now Tuskegee University, were heroes, whether or not they were among the 450 or so who saw combat duty. So were the roughly 12 black men and women who served as mechanics or other support crew for each pilot, and their black comrades who flew in medium bombers during the war.

Mr. Speaker, no one—man or woman, adults or the near-child drummer boys of the Civil and Revolutionary Wars—no one who goes to war in the defense of this country and the liberty for which it stands can be described as anything but valiant and courageous. But usually, Mr. Speaker, the only fight these heroes have is with the enemy.

The trailblazers of the first class of 13, all college grads and pilots, who went through fighter pilot training at Moton Field in the summer of 1941, and all who came after them, also had to fight prejudice. They beat that enemy as soundly as they beat the Axis, and it was not long after the war that the armed services of this country became integrated.

While the brave Tuskegee Airmen were recognized by their comrades in arms, and respected and feared by enemy pilots, they were relatively unknown after the war until the formation in 1972 of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Today, besides the scholarship fund it sponsors, there are several memorials to the Airmen, including one at the Air Force Museum at Dayton in my home State of Ohio. Today, we will approve legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to these brave men as a group, and give the medal to the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor Congress bestows. It has gone to military heroes, including General George Washington, and heroes of the fight against prejudice. Thus, it is only fitting—and long overdue—that we recognize the Tuskegee Airmen in this manner, and do so during Black History Month.

It is for those reasons, Mr. Speaker, that I rise in strong support of H.R. 1259, introduced by the gentleman from New York, that would award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen, and ask for its immediate passage.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1259. This resolution authorizes the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this important resolution. I thank the gentleman from New York for introducing it and urge my colleagues' support.

Prior to the Tuskegee Airmen, all combat pilots had been white. In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the creation of an all black flight training program to train black Americans as military pilots. Due to the rigid system of racial segregation that prevailed in the United States during World War II, black military pilots were trained at a separate airfield built near Tuskegee, Alabama. The Division of Aeronautics of Tuskegee Institute, the famed school founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881, conducted primary flight training. Thus, they became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

The first classes of Tuskegee Airmen were trained to be fighter pilots for the famous 99th Fighter Squadron, slated for combat duty in North Africa. Additional pilots were assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group, which flew combat along with the 99th Squadron from bases in Italy.

Due to the success of the program, in September 1943, a twin-engine training program was begun at Tuskegee to provide bomber pilots. However, World War II ended before these men were able to get into combat.

By the end of the war, 992 men had graduated from pilot training at Tuskegee, 450 of whom were sent overseas for combat assignment. During the same period, approximately 150 lost their lives while in training or on combat flights.

The Tuskegee Airmen inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces, paving the way for full racial integration in the Armed Forces. They overcame the enormous challenges of prejudice and discrimination, succeeding, despite obstacles that threatened failure. Yet, their impact can be felt far beyond the U.S. Armed Forces into nearly every aspect of American life. The strength and courage of the Tuskegee Airmen serve as an inspiration to all Americans, regardless of skin color or nationality.

It remains critically important for all Americans to know the Tuskegee Airmen's story and the struggles these men went through and ultimately overcame. I encourage everyone to learn more about these remarkable and inspirational men and urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1259, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1259 and H.R. 2872 and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ZIMBABWE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-93)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency blocking the property of persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2006. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on March 4, 2005 (70 FR 10859).

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions has not been resolved. These actions and policies pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is

necessary to continue this national emergency and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 27, 2006.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENT) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1096, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 668, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 1259, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

ACT COMMEMORATING THE LITE, OR LIFETIME INNOVATIONS OF THOMAS EDISON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1096, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1096, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 1, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 14]

YEAS—399

Ackerman	Berkley	Boucher
Aderholt	Berman	Boustany
Akin	Berry	Boyd
Alexander	Bilirakis	Bradley (NH)
Andrews	Bishop (GA)	Brady (PA)
Baca	Bishop (NY)	Brady (TX)
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Brown (OH)
Baird	Blackburn	Brown (SC)
Baker	Blumenauer	Brown-Waite,
Baldwin	Blunt	Ginny
Barrett (SC)	Boehert	Burgess
Barrow	Boehner	Burton (IN)
Bartlett (MD)	Bonilla	Butterfield
Barton (TX)	Bono	Buyer
Bass	Boozman	Calvert
Bean	Boren	Camp (MI)
Becerra	Boswell	Campbell (CA)

Cannon	Hastings (WA)	Melancon	Smith (WA)	Thompson (MS)	Watt	Cannon	Hayes	Michaud
Cantor	Hayes	Mica	Snyder	Thornberry	Waxman	Cantor	Hayworth	Miller (FL)
Capito	Hayworth	Michaud	Sodrel	Tiahrt	Weiner	Capito	Hefley	Miller (MI)
Capps	Hefley	Miller (FL)	Solis	Tiberi	Weldon (FL)	Capps	Hensarling	Miller (NC)
Capuano	Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Souder	Towns	Weldon (PA)	Capuano	Herger	Miller, George
Cardin	Herger	Miller (NC)	Spratt	Turner	Weller	Cardin	Hersth	Mollohan
Cardoza	Hersth	Miller, George	Stark	Udall (CO)	Westmoreland	Cardoza	Higgins	Moore (KS)
Carnahan	Higgins	Mollohan	Stearns	Udall (NM)	Wexler	Carnahan	Hinojosa	Moore (WI)
Carson	Hinojosa	Moore (KS)	Strickland	Upton	Whitfield	Carson	Hobson	Moran (KS)
Carter	Hobson	Moore (WI)	Stupak	Van Hollen	Wicker	Carter	Hoekstra	Murphy
Case	Hoekstra	Moran (KS)	Sullivan	Velázquez	Wilson (NM)	Case	Holden	Murtha
Castle	Holden	Murphy	Tancred	Visclosky	Wilson (SC)	Castle	Holt	Musgrave
Chabot	Holt	Murtha	Tanner	Walden (OR)	Wolf	Chabot	Honda	Napolitano
Chandler	Honda	Musgrave	Tauscher	Walsh	Woolsey	Chandler	Hooley	Neal (MA)
Chocola	Hooley	Napolitano	Taylor (MS)	Wamp	Wu	Chocola	Hostettler	Neugebauer
Clay	Hostettler	Neal (MA)	Taylor (NC)	Wasserman	Wynn	Clay	Hoyer	Ney
Cleaver	Hoyer	Neugebauer	Thomas	Terry	Young (AK)	Cleaver	Hulshof	Northup
Clyburn	Hulshof	Ney	Thompson (CA)	Watson	Young (FL)	Clyburn	Hunter	Norwood
Coble	Hunter	Northup				Coble	Hyde	Nunes
Cole (OK)	Hyde	Norwood				Cole (OK)	Inglis (SC)	Nussle
Conaway	Inglis (SC)	Nunes				Conaway	Inslee	Oberstar
Conyers	Inslee	Nussle				Conyers	Israel	Obey
Cooper	Israel	Oberstar				Cooper	Issa	Olver
Cramer	Issa	Obey				Cramer	Jackson (IL)	Ortiz
Crenshaw	Jackson (IL)	Olver				Crenshaw	Jackson-Lee	Oxley
Crowley	Jackson-Lee	Ortiz				Crowley	(TX)	Pallone
Cubin	(TX)	Otter				Cubin	Jefferson	Pascarell
Cuellar	Jefferson	Oxley				Cuellar	Jenkins	Pastor
Culberson	Jenkins	Pallone				Culberson	Jindal	Paul
Cummings	Jindal	Pascarell				Cummings	Johnson (CT)	Payne
Davis (AL)	Johnson (CT)	Pastor				Davis (AL)	Johnson (IL)	Pearce
Davis (CA)	Johnson (IL)	Payne				Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi
Davis (IL)	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce				Davis (IL)	Johnson, Sam	Pence
Davis (KY)	Johnson, Sam	Pelosi				Davis (KY)	Jones (NC)	Peterson (MN)
Davis (TN)	Jones (NC)	Pence				Davis (TN)	Jones (OH)	Peterson (PA)
Davis, Jo Ann	Jones (OH)	Peterson (MN)				Davis, Jo Ann	Kanjorski	Petri
Davis, Tom	Kanjorski	Peterson (PA)				Davis, Tom	Kaptur	Pickering
Deal (GA)	Kaptur	Petri				Deal (GA)	Keller	Pitts
DeFazio	Keller	Pickering				DeFazio	Kelly	Platts
DeGette	Kelly	Pitts				DeGette	Kennedy (MN)	Poe
Delahunt	Kennedy (MN)	Platts				Delahunt	Kennedy (RI)	Pombo
DeLauro	Kennedy (RI)	Poe				DeLauro	Kildee	Pomeroy
Dent	Kildee	Pombo				Dent	Kilpatrick (MI)	Porter
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kilpatrick (MI)	Pomeroy				Diaz-Balart, L.	Kind	Price (GA)
Dicks	Kind	Porter				Dicks	King (IA)	Price (NC)
Dingell	King (IA)	Price (GA)				Dingell	King (NY)	Pryce (OH)
Doggett	King (NY)	Price (NC)				Doggett	Kingston	Putnam
Doyle	Kingston	Pryce (OH)				Doyle	Kirk	Radanovich
Drake	Kirk	Putnam				Drake	Kline	Rahall
Dreier	Kline	Radanovich				Dreier	Knollenberg	Ramstad
Duncan	Knollenberg	Rahall				Duncan	Kolbe	Rangel
Edwards	Kolbe	Ramstad				Edwards	Kucinich	Regula
Ehlers	Kucinich	Rangel				Ehlers	Kuhl (NY)	Rehberg
Emanuel	Kuhl (NY)	Regula				Emanuel	LaHood	Reichert
Emerson	LaHood	Rehberg				Emerson	Langevin	Renzi
Engel	Langevin	Reichert				Engel	Lantos	Reyes
English (PA)	Lantos	Renzi				English (PA)	Larsen (WA)	Reynolds
Eshoo	Larsen (WA)	Reyes				Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Etheridge	Larson (CT)	Reynolds				Etheridge	Latham	Rogers (KY)
Everett	Latham	Rogers (AL)				Everett	LaTourrette	Rogers (MI)
Farr	LaTourrette	Rogers (KY)				Farr	Leach	Ros-Lehtinen
Fattah	Leach	Rogers (MI)				Fattah	Lee	Ross
Feeney	Lee	Ros-Lehtinen				Feeney	Levin	Rothman
Ferguson	Levin	Ross				Ferguson	Lewis (CA)	Royce
Filner	Lewis (CA)	Rothman				Filner	Lewis (GA)	Ruppersberger
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lewis (GA)	Royce				Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lewis (KY)	Ryan (OH)
Flake	Lewis (KY)	Ruppersberger				Flake	Linder	Ryan (WI)
Foley	Linder	Ryan (OH)				Foley	Lipinski	Ryun (KS)
Forbes	Lipinski	Ryan (WI)				Forbes	LoBiondo	Sabo
Fortenberry	LoBiondo	Ryan (KS)				Fortenberry	Lofgren, Zoe	Salazar
Fossella	Lofgren, Zoe	Sabo				Fossella	Lowey	Sanchez, Linda
Fox	Lowey	Salazar				Fox	Lungren, Daniel	T.
Frank (MA)	Lungren, Daniel	Sanchez, Linda				Frank (MA)	E.	Sanchez, Loretta
Franks (AZ)	E.	T.				Franks (AZ)	Lynch	Sanders
Frelinghuysen	Lynch	Sanchez, Loretta				Frelinghuysen	Mack	Saxton
Gallegly	Mack	Sanders				Gallegly	Maloney	Schakowsky
Garrett (NJ)	Maloney	Saxton				Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo	Schiff
Gerlach	Manzullo	Schakowsky				Gerlach	Marchant	Schmidt
Gibbons	Marchant	Schiff				Gibbons	Markey	Schwartz (PA)
Gilchrest	Markey	Schmidt				Gilchrest	Marshall	Schwarz (MI)
Gillmor	Marshall	Schwartz (PA)				Gillmor	Matheson	Scott (GA)
Gingrey	Matheson	Schwarz (MI)				Gingrey	Matsui	Scott (VA)
Gohmert	Matsui	Scott (GA)				Gonzalez	McCarthy	Sensenbrenner
Gonzalez	McCarthy	Scott (VA)				Goode	McCaul (TX)	Serrano
Goode	McCaul (TX)	Sensenbrenner				Goodlatte	McCotter	Sessions
Goodlatte	McCotter	Serrano				Gordon	McCrery	Shadegg
Gordon	McCrery	Sessions				Granger	McDermott	Shaw
Granger	McDermott	Shadegg				Graves	McGovern	Shays
Graves	McGovern	Shaw				Green (WI)	McHenry	Sherman
Green (WI)	McHenry	Shays				Green, Al	McHugh	Sherwood
Green, Al	McHugh	Sherman				Green, Gene	McIntyre	Shimkus
Green, Gene	McIntyre	Sherwood				Grijalva	McKeon	Shuster
Grijalva	McKeon	Shimkus				Gutknecht	McKinney	Simmons
Gutknecht	McKinney	Shuster				Hall	McMorris	Simpson
Hall	McMorris	Simmons				Harman	McNulty	Slaughter
Harman	McNulty	Simpson				Harris	Meehan	Smith (NJ)
Harris	Meehan	Slaughter				Hart	Meek (FL)	Smith (TX)
Hart	Meek (FL)	Smith (NJ)				Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)	Smith (WA)
Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)	Smith (TX)				Hastings (WA)	Mica	Snyder

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—32

Abercrombie	Doolittle	Moran (VA)
Allen	Evans	Myrick
Beauprez	Ford	Nadler
Biggett	Gutierrez	Osborne
Bonner	Hinche	Owens
Brown, Corrine	Istook	Rohrabacher
Costa	Lucas	Roybal-Allard
Costello	McCollum (MN)	Rush
Davis (FL)	Millender-	Skelton
DeLay	McDonald	Sweeney
Diaz-Balart, M.	Miller, Gary	Tierney

□ 1854

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS WESTERN'S 1966 NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 668, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 668, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 0, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 15]

YEAS—397

Ackerman	Berkley	Boucher
Aderholt	Berman	Boustany
Akin	Berry	Boyd
Alexander	Bilirakis	Bradley (NH)
Allen	Bishop (GA)	Brady (PA)
Andrews	Bishop (NY)	Brady (TX)
Baca	Bishop (UT)	Brown (OH)
Backus	Blackburn	Brown (SC)
Baird	Blumenauer	Brown-Waite,
Baker	Blunt	Ginny
Baldwin	Boehler	Burgess
Barrett (SC)	Boehner	Burton (IN)
Barrow	Bonilla	Butterfield
Bartlett (MD)	Bono	Buyer
Barton (TX)	Boozman	Calvert
Bean	Boren	Camp (MI)
Becerra	Boswell	Campbell (CA)

Cannon	Hayes	Michaud
Cantor	Hayworth	Miller (FL)
Capito	Hefley	Miller (MI)
Capps	Hensarling	Miller (NC)
Capuano	Herger	Miller, George
Cardin	Hersth	Mollohan
Cardoza	Higgins	Moore (KS)
Carnahan	Hinojosa	Moore (WI)
Carson	Hobson	Moran (KS)
Carter	Hoekstra	Murphy
Case	Holden	Murtha
Castle	Holt	Musgrave
Chabot	Honda	Napolitano
Chandler	Hooley	Neal (MA)
Chocola	Hostettler	Neugebauer
Clay	Hoyer	Ney
Cleaver	Hulshof	Northup
Clyburn	Hunter	Norwood
Coble	Hyde	Nunes
Cole (OK)	Inglis (SC)	Nussle
Conaway	Inslee	Oberstar
Conyers	Israel	Obey
Cooper	Issa	Olver
Cramer	Jackson (IL)	Ortiz
Crenshaw	Jackson-Lee	Oxley
Crowley	(TX)	Pallone
Cubin	Jefferson	Pascarell
Cuellar	Jenkins	Pastor
Culberson	Jindal	Paul
Cummings	Johnson (CT)	Payne
Davis (AL)	Johnson (IL)	Pearce
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi
Davis (IL)	Johnson, Sam	Pence
Davis (KY)	Jones (NC)	Peterson (MN)
Davis (TN)	Jones (OH)	Peterson (PA)
Davis, Jo Ann	Kanjorski	Petri
Davis, Tom	Kaptur	Pickering
Deal (GA)	Keller	Pitts
DeFazio	Kelly	Platts
DeGette	Kennedy (MN)	Poe
Delahunt	Kennedy (RI)	Pombo
DeLauro	Kildee	Pomeroy
Dent	Kilpatrick (MI)	Porter
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kind	Price (GA)
Dicks	King (IA)	Price (NC)
Dingell	King (NY)	Pryce (OH)
Doggett	Kingston	Putnam
Doyle	Kirk	Radanovich
Drake	Kline	Rahall
Dreier	Knollenberg	Ramstad
Duncan	Kolbe	Rangel
Edwards	Kucinich	Regula
Ehlers	Kuhl (NY)	Rehberg
Emanuel	LaHood	Reichert
Emerson	Langevin	Renzi
Engel	Lantos	Reyes
English (PA)	Larsen (WA)	Reynolds
Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Etheridge	Latham	Rogers (KY)
Everett	LaTourrette	Rogers (MI)
Farr	Leach	Ros-Lehtinen
Fattah	Lee	Ross
Feeney	Levin	Rothman
Ferguson	Lewis (CA)	Royce
Filner	Lewis (GA)	Ruppersberger
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lewis (KY)	Ryan (OH)
Flake	Linder	Ryan (WI)
Foley	Lipinski	Ryun (KS)
Forbes	LoBiondo	Sabo
Fortenberry	Lofgren, Zoe	Salazar
Fossella	Lowey	Sanchez, Linda
Fox	Lungren, Daniel	T.
Frank (MA)	E.	Sanchez, Loretta
Franks (AZ)	Lynch	Sanders
Frelinghuysen	Mack	Saxton
Gallegly	Maloney	Schakowsky
Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo	Schiff
Gerlach	Marchant	Schmidt
Gibbons	Markey	Schwartz (PA)
Gilchrest	Marshall	Schwarz (MI)
Gillmor	Matheson	Scott (GA)
Gingrey	Matsui	Scott (VA)
Gohmert	McCarthy	Sensenbrenner
Gonzalez	McCaul (TX)	Serrano
Goode	McCotter	Sessions
Goodlatte	McCrery	Shadegg
Gordon	McDermott	Shaw
Granger	McGovern	Shays
Graves	McHenry	Sherman
Green (WI)	McHugh	Sherwood
Green, Al	McIntyre	Shimkus
Green, Gene	McKeon	Shuster
Grijalva	McKinney	Simmons
Gutknecht	McMorris	Simpson
Hall	McNulty	Slaughter
Harman	Meehan	Smith (NJ)
Harris	Meek (FL)	Smith (TX)
Hart	Meeks (NY)	Smith (WA)
Hastings (FL)	Mica	Snyder

Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry

Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velazquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson

Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Velazquez
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—35

Abercrombie
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bonner
Brown, Corrine
Costa
Costello
Davis (FL)
DeLay
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle

Evans
Ford
Gohmert
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Istook
Lucas
McCollum (MN)
Melancon
Millender
McDonald
Miller, Gary

Moran (VA)
Myrick
Nadler
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Skelton
Sweeney
Terry

□ 1903

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 1259, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1259, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 0, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 16]

YEAS—400

Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)

Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert

Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocoma
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper

Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inlee
Israel
Issa

Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Pelosi
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markley
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver

Ortiz
Otter
Oxley
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney

Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velazquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland

Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—32

Abercrombie
Beauprez
Biggert
Bonner
Brown, Corrine
Costa
Costello
Davis (FL)
DeLay
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle

Evans
Ford
Gingrey
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Istook
Kirk
Lucas
McCollum (MN)
Millender
McDonald

Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Myrick
Nadler
Osborne
Owens
Rohrabacher
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Skelton
Sweeney

□ 1920

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A Bill to award a congressional gold medal on behalf of the Tuskegee Airmen, collectively, in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 14, 15 and 16.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES OWNING AMERICAN PORTS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the decision to let a United Arab Emirates-owned company take over operations at U.S. ports is dangerous and defies common sense. This is a matter of domestic security. The UAE, although our alleged friends now, recognized the Taliban, laundered money to 9/11 terrorists, and continues to participate in the Arab boycott against Israel.

These same foreign entities would have access to U.S. manifests showing what cargo is being shipped and where and when it is going. This decision affects military terminals in my district, like the port of Beaumont, where one-third of all military cargo deployed to and from Iraq comes through this port. Even the Coast Guard seems to be uneasy about this decision. There is an inherent problem and a national security risk in having state-owned foreign companies buying interest in American ports. This decision is unwise. We are putting a fox in our own hen house, and this decision ought not to be.

Mr. Speaker, allowing a foreign-owned business to infiltrate our ports

is just a risky business. And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND OUR TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the House Republican leadership for finally standing up to the President and saying no on this agreement, this \$6.8 billion contract with the company from the United Arab Emirates.

The problem, however, is more fundamental than just stopping this one. It is what happens with national security in our trade agreements. We are in the middle of negotiating a trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates. If this trade agreement had already been signed, we could not back out of this deal with this United Arab Emirates country. It would be an unfair trade practice.

The administration and the Congress have it exactly backwards. Before signing trade agreements, before negotiating a new trade agreement, we need a provision to address national security concerns first. That means a review about all the implications of national security before we sign these trade agreements. That is why I am introducing legislation tonight to do just that.

HONORING MARGARET ROGERS GHIOTTO OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is March 1, and each March we celebrate the achievements of our American women during Women's History Month.

This year I want to take the opportunity to honor Margaret Rogers Ghiotto from Brooksville, Florida. A decorated and accomplished business leader and humanitarian, she deserves special recognition for her good work and deeds throughout her 89 years. She was a pillar in the Hernando County community until her death earlier last month. Her story is an inspiration to all Americans, but especially women.

Known by her friends and family as Weenie, her success as a businesswoman came at a time when a woman's place was supposed to be in the home. She owned and managed Rogers Christmas House, as well as Jennings House in Brooksville, Florida, that is on the National Register.

It was with great reverence and admiration that friends, family, and members of the community paid their respects to Margaret on February 18, 2006. Margaret's story is an inspiration not only to women business owners but to all residents throughout the Nation.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE GET IT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important, as we have participated in the rising thunder of the discussion of port ownership around America, to say that the American people get it. What they get is that we are in a new day after 9/11. We want to make sure that our constitutional rights are protected, but we also want to make sure the homeland is secure. That is the promise that this administration made to the American people. And, frankly, to know that our ports are subjected to the potential of being bought and sold on the open market is a frightening concept.

It is well known that a tanker massed with weapons of mass destruction at any one of our ports could be probably more devastating than the horrific events of 9/11. Tomorrow, I will introduce legislation that will ask for a moratorium for the Nation's ports and the buying and selling to foreign entities, not entities in the Middle East, not entities in Europe, but all foreign entities. I will ask, as well, for a GAO study to determine what is the status of security for our ports. And finally, I will ask for a report on the security status of the 10 largest ports in America.

Let's give a solution. We don't need contracts that sell away our security.

HONORING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK AND THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

(Mr. KLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nearly 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers who served in more than 70 countries across the globe last year. More specifically, to celebrate National Peace Corps Week, I would like to acknowledge the 30 Peace Corps volunteers in Minnesota's Second Congressional District who graduated from St. Olaf or Carleton Colleges, which annually are among the Nation's small college leaders in providing volunteers to the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps, celebrating its 45th anniversary, provides practical assistance to host countries by sharing America's most precious resource, its people. I commend the Peace Corps volunteers for teaching those throughout the developing world how to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

We should take time to honor these selfless volunteers for their valuable service.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a list of Peace Corps volunteers from Minnesota's Second District.

ST. OLAF COLLEGE

Kraig R. Lothe, Christopher D. Stillion, Sarah A. Chambers, Elizabeth M. Kidd, Megan M. Gregory, Leah A. Gross, Anne E. Fraser, Autumn A. Notter, Matthew M. Toburen, Leslie A. Nechville, Colin T. Forman, Aaron D. Gerber, Erik N. Peterson, Jenell C. Stewart, Kai M. Logan, Kari L. Lewis, and Micheal J. Miller.

CARLETON COLLEGE

Susan E. Johnson, Katherine L. Jumbe, Nicholas Boekelheide, Katherine M. Valaas, Robert A. Valaas, Jesse M. Lamarre-Vincent, Sara A. Lehoullier, April K. Wilhelm, Nicholas R. Kasperek, Theodore J. Stroemer, Carl G. Ebeling, Ambrosia D. Mosby, and Elliot T. Hoel.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RAMSTAD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LETTER FROM NAJIM ABDULLAH ABID AL-JIBOURI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I have with me a letter written by Najim Abdullah Abid Al-Jibouri, the mayor of Tall 'Afar, Iraq who saluted the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment. The mayor of Tall 'Afar saw that the United States soldiers were sacrificing and turning that city into a city that had an opportunity for freedom and prosperity, has carefully penned this letter, and a letter to the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment.

It states: "In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful, to the courageous men and women of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, who have changed the city of Tall 'Afar from a ghost town in which terrorists spread death and destruction, to a secure city flourishing with life. To the lion hearts who liberated our city from the grasp of terrorists who were beheading men, women and children in the streets for many months. To those who spread smiles on the faces of our children and gave us restored hope through their personal sacrifice and brave fighting and gave new life to the city after hopelessness darkened our days and stole our confidence in our ability to re-establish our city. Our city was the main base of operations for Abu Mousab Al Zarqawi.

□ 1930

"The city was completely held hostage in the hands of his henchmen. Our

schools, governmental services, businesses, and offices were closed. Our streets were silent, and no one dared to walk them.

"Our people were barricaded in their homes out of fear; death awaited them around every corner.

"Terrorists occupied and controlled the only hospital in the city. Their savagery reached such a level that they stuffed the corpses of children with explosives and tossed them into the streets in order to kill grieving parents attempting to retrieve the bodies of their young.

"This was the situation of our city until God prepared and delivered unto them the courageous soldiers of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, who liberated this city, ridding it of Zarqawi's followers after harsh fighting, killing many terrorists, and forcing the remaining butchers to flee the city like rats to the surrounding areas, where the bravery of other Third Armored Cavalry Regiment soldiers in Sinjar, Rabiah, Zumar, and Avgani finally destroyed them.

"I have met many soldiers of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment; they are not only courageous men and women, but avenging angels sent by The God Himself to fight the evil of terrorism.

"The leaders of this Regiment, Colonel McMaster, Colonel Armstrong, Lieutenant Colonel Hickey, Lieutenant Colonel Gibson, and Lieutenant Colonel Reilly embody courage, strength, vision, and wisdom. Officers and soldiers alike bristle with the confidence and character of knights in a bygone era.

"The mission they have accomplished, by means of a unique military operation, stands among the finest military feats to date in Operation Iraqi Freedom and truly deserves to be studied in military science. This military operation was clean, with little collateral damage, despite the ferocity of the enemy. With the skill and precision of surgeons they dealt with the terrorist cancers in the city without causing unnecessary damage.

"God bless this brave Regiment; God bless the families who dedicated these brave men and women. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank the families. They have given us something we will never forget.

"To the families of those who have given their holy blood for our land, we all bow to you in reverence and to the souls of your loved ones. Their sacrifice was not in vain.

"They are not dead, but alive, and their souls hovering around us every second of every minute. They will never be forgotten for giving their precious lives. They have sacrificed that which is most valuable.

"We see them in the smile of every child and in every flower growing in this land. Let America, their families, and the world be proud of their sacrifice for humanity and life.

"Finally, no matter how much I write or speak about this brave Regi-

ment, I haven't the words to describe the courage of its officer and soldiers. I pray to God to grant happiness and health to these legendary heroes and their brave families."

Mr. Speaker, there are no words that can improve upon this letter.

PORT SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade I have been expressing concern about our ports and our port security. Let me explain.

The United States has signed onto international agreements, consensus agreements, where we allow ships to be owned secretly and flagged under flags of convenience from countries that barely exist, Liberia, other countries, like Malta and Panama, who look at it as a way to make money, but care nothing about safety and security. And even they will freely admit they do not know who owns these ships.

Osama bin Laden may own a fleet of freighters. We are not allowed to know that, but they can sail into a U.S. port under a Liberian, Panamanian, or Maltese flag. That is a concern. We do not know who the crews are on these ships.

After an accident on my coast, where I started investigating the credentials of the Filipino captain, I found out that at an International Maritime Organization-approved school in the Philippines, which has never been visited or inspected, which does not exist; anybody, any terrorist, anybody, can buy captain's papers for about \$2,500 and they are a captain. So if Osama bin Laden owns a ship, a terrorist buys fake papers, he is now a captain on that ship.

Well, but there must be measures to secure the cargo. Well, not really. We require a manifest, a piece of paper, or in this day and age, an electronic transmission of a list of what is in the containers on that ship.

Now, that is pretty hard to phony up. But then they put these little seals on there that a 6-year-old kid could peel off and open up if the container has been inspected. It would be too expensive, \$1 to \$2 per container, to have tamper-proof seals. So we cannot have tamper-proof seals. So we do not know who owns the ships. We do not know who crews the ships, and we do not know what is on the cargo on those ships that are coming into U.S. waters.

Then we have the "thin blue line," the United States Coast Guard. Here are the concerns they raised about this UAE deal: The Coast Guard said, "There are many intelligence gaps concerning the potential for DPW or PNO assets to support terrorist operations that preclude the completion of a thorough threat assessment. The breadth of the intelligence gaps also infer potential unknown threats against a large number of potential vulnerabilities."

But then, when they were backed into a corner and their funding was probably threatened by the White House, the Coast Guard said, "The DP World's acquisition of PNO in and of itself does not pose a significant threat to U.S. assets in ports in the continental United States." Notice the qualification. "In and of itself."

The Coast Guard knows that we do not know who owns the ships. The Coast Guard knows that we do not know who crews those ships. The Coast Guard knows that we do not know what is on those ships. So they are saying this is another level of concern, this government which supported the Taliban, Mr. Khan and his nuclear proliferation, actually controlling the physical facilities. If all that other stuff was taken care of, if we knew who owned the ships, if we knew who crewed the ships, if we knew exactly what was on the ships, if it was tamper-proof sealed, then maybe you could think about this.

Now, the President says he did not know a thing about it, but he knows it was absolutely fine because all his people took care of it. You would think that that might have included the Secretary of Defense. He says he did not know a thing about it, but he knows it is just fine too. And now they say, well, we will have a review for 45 days, but we know it is just fine. We just need that time to tell people it is just fine.

This is plain and simple the Bush administration once more putting commerce, putting multinational corporate profits ahead of the safety and security of the American people. This is about a free trade deal they are negotiating with the UAE. This is about our huge and growing trade deficit where more and more foreign countries are going to be coming back here, buying up critical assets in the United States of America, because we have a totally failed trade policy under this administration.

And what do they want to do? They want to do more of it, and now they want to allow people to buy terminals in our ports and jeopardize the security of the American people.

Enough is enough. It is time to stop this madness.

U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my objections to the proposed United Nations Human Rights Council.

The proposal offered by the U.N. General Assembly President is a far cry

from the reforms that we envisioned just a year ago. If adopted as is, the proposed Council could continue the U.N.'s roll down to irrelevance and would inhibit the efforts of the United States to promote and protect human rights worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, in creating the United Nations, an entity born from the ashes of the Holocaust and the struggle against tyranny in World War II, the nations of the world committed themselves to one goal: "Never again." We would never again tolerate violations of fundamental freedoms and liberties endowed to each and every human being. A Commission on Human Rights was established to ensure that we would not waver in this commitment. It sought to protect the oppressed while holding the oppressors accountable for their actions. However, this commission has become a rogue's gallery, a country club for pariah states, a speaker's forum for dictators.

No farmer would designate a fox to guard his henhouse. No member of the international community in 1945 would have Heimler serve as a judge in Nuremberg; yet the United Nations deemed it acceptable and credible to have the likes of China, Cuba, Iran, and Sudan to sit on its Human Rights Commission.

We had to take action. As a result, the U.N. Reform Act was adopted by the House not once but twice, and it contained provisions to fundamentally reform the entities dealing with human rights at the United Nations. The Henry Hyde bill called for the United States to leverage our influence as well as our financial contributions to the United Nations in order to ensure that countries could only serve with members of any human rights body if they uphold the values embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We provided specific criteria for membership, criteria which seemed obvious, even self-evident, or so we thought.

It appears that it was not so obvious, not so self-evident, given that the current proposals for the U.N. Human Rights Council have no concrete human rights prerequisite for membership. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. There are other areas of grave concern.

The draft for the creation of the U.N. Human Rights Council does not establish criteria for membership. All members of the U.N. would be eligible for membership. This means that gross human rights violators could easily serve on the newly renamed council. It would give greater power and influence to certain regional groupings. These nations would hold 55 percent of the votes, therefore marginalizing the influence of Western democracy while heightening the collective power of despotic regimes.

It also makes it easier to call for special sessions of the council. Due to the new composition of the council, democratic nations such as ours and Israel

would become targets for these special sessions. It would also require members to rotate off every two terms, which means that every 6 years the United States would be off the council.

The United States must stand firm against these attempts. I commend John Bolton, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, for doing just that and raising the bar for other democratic nations to do the same. We must make it clear to the United Nations that we will not accept a simple reshuffling of the deck chairs on the Titanic. We will not be pressured into a hasty vote on this Human Rights Council while much needs to be done, much needs to be reconsidered and studied.

Let us recall our promise of "Never again." Let us ask ourselves, does the proposed U.N. Human Rights Council fulfill that promise? If it does not, then let us make every effort to ensure that it does. We must prevent the Human Rights Council from also being hijacked and manipulated into a tool of oppression and tyranny, rather than standing for freedom and democracy.

NICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking on the 109th Congress and still we have done nothing to stop illegal guns from getting into the hands of criminals.

I am not proposing anything new about laws or a ban on certain weapons, but helping our States enforce the current law that prevents criminals from buying guns.

NICS, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, is the database used to check potential firearms buyers for any criminal record or history of mental illness. In large, NICS has been a success. Since 1994 more than 700,000 individuals were denied a gun for failing a background check. The background check goes back to the 1968 Gun Control Act, and that would basically be what we are enforcing.

However, the NICS system is only as good as the information that the States provide. Twenty-five States have automated less than 60 percent of their felony convictions into the NICS system. That means that 40 percent of people are not in the system that should be denied guns. In these States many felons will not turn up on the NICS system and would be able to purchase guns with no questions asked.

In 13 States domestic violence restraining orders are not necessarily put into the NICS system. Common sense would dictate that you do not sell a gun to someone who has been served with a restraining order.

Thirty-three States have not automated or do not share mental health records that would disqualify certain individuals from purchasing a gun. Sadly, this particular loophole in the

NICS system cost two of my constituents their lives.

On March 8, 2002, Peter Troy purchased a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle. He had a history of mental health problems, and his own mother had a restraining order against him as a result of his violence. It was illegal for him to purchase a gun, but like so many others, he simply slipped through the cracks in the NICS system. Four days later Peter Troy walked into our Lady of Peace Church in Lynbrook, New York, opened fire and killed Reverend Lawrence Penzes and Eileen Tosner.

Peter Troy had no business buying a gun, and the system created to prevent him from doing so failed.

□ 1945

It is only a matter of time before the system's failings provide larger tragedies. We must fix the NICS system. While we lay the responsibility for the NICS system on the States, many of our States' budgets are already overburdened and will have even fewer resources if the President's budget passes as is intact, which is why I introduced H.R. 1415, the NICS Improvement Act.

This legislation will provide grants to States to update the NICS system. States would be able to update their NICS database to include felons, people with certain mental and emotional disabilities, and domestic abusers. We need the NICS Improvement Act to become law, and we need more bills like this to pass. These are ideas that impose no new restrictions open gun owners, but give the government the tools to ensure existing laws are enforced. In fact, the NICS Improvement Act already passed this House in the 107th Congress by a voice vote. It came through the Judiciary Committee with no dissenting votes. The bill had the endorsement of the National Rifle Association. Unfortunately, the other body never acted upon the bill.

This is commonsense gun legislation we can all agree on. This bill will save lives while not infringing on anybody's second amendment rights.

Mr. Speaker, I call Congress to act quickly on H.R. 1415. We can prevent tragedies throughout this Nation. Certainly we hear the NRA talking all the time about enforcing the laws on the books. We can do this if we enforce the laws on the books. If we bring up the NICS system the way it is supposed to be, we can save lives.

One thing that people don't talk about, with the injuries and the deaths that we see in this Nation from daily gun violence, it is costing our medical system, our health care system over \$2 billion a year. That is money that can certainly be better spent on other health care issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that the House will see its way to take this important information, bring the NICS system up to where it should be, and let us save lives.

HONORING R. PHILIP HANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in honor of one of my constituents, Mr. R. Philip Hanes of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as we celebrate his 80th birthday.

Mr. Hanes is a truly remarkable man who has accomplished more than most people could if given several lifetimes. He is the former chief executive officer of Hanes Companies, Incorporated. However, despite his tremendous success in the business world, he is best known for his passion, leadership, and support for the arts.

As a leader of the American arts council movement that began in the 1950s, Mr. Hanes has served on the boards of over 50 national, State and local art agencies, most notably as the founding member of the National Council on the Arts and as the founder and first chairman of the North Carolina Arts Council.

He has also served on the boards of many world-renowned organizations, such as the Museum of Modern Art, the New York City Ballet, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kennedy Center For the Performing Arts, and too many others to list.

Mr. Hanes, who attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated from Yale University, was the founder of the Yale University Committee on Music, a board member at the Brevard School of Music, and an advisory council member at the Cornell University Graduate School of Business in the Arts Administration Division.

He is the recipient of three Presidential appointments from Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Ford, three honorary degrees and 24 art awards. These awards include the National Medal of Arts presented by President Bush in 1991 for Mr. Hanes' role as a founder of community arts programs across the Nation.

Mr. Hanes was instrumental in establishing the North Carolina School of the Arts; the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Arts, SECCA; and the Roger L. Stevens Center for the Performing Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

He was a founder of the North Carolina Governor's Council on Business, Arts and Humanities and a founder of the Winston-Salem Arts Council. In addition, he and his wife, Charlotte, are the namesakes of an art gallery at Wake Forest University.

Mr. Hanes also played a tremendous role in bringing the Sparta Teapot Museum to northwest North Carolina. Sonny and Gloria Kamm of Los Angeles, California, had been collecting unique teapots for over 25 years and had been looking to relocate their collection to a community where it could make a serious economic impact.

Some folks from the Penland School of Craft suggested that they consider northwest North Carolina and advised Mr. and Mrs. Kamm to talk to Philip Hanes. It turns out that on their return flight, a representative from the Penland School was randomly assigned a seat next to none other than Mr. Hanes. Mr. Hanes loved the idea of establishing a teapot museum in northwest North Carolina. He contacted the Kamms, pitched the idea and brought them to Sparta. And the rest is history.

The planned Sparta Teapot Museum will be the permanent home for the Kamms' teapots. Their collection will help revitalize Sparta and the rest of Alleghany County, which saw four of its five largest employers close their doors. The museum will be the only specialty teapot museum in the country and will encourage economic development by drawing in a large number of tourists to Sparta each year.

In addition to his accomplishments in the arts, Mr. Hanes' love for the great outdoors led him to establish three national conservation organizations and serve on the boards of 19 others. When he wasn't busy working on all these projects, Mr. Hanes somehow managed to find time to write a popular novel, "How to Get Anyone to Do Anything." In his book, Mr. Hanes shares the wisdom he has gained throughout many years during his impressive career.

Philip Hanes and his wife, Charlotte, are true treasures in the fifth district. I want to wish him a happy birthday and thank him for all of the wonderful things that he has done to help promote the arts and conservation in the State of North Carolina and throughout the country, and to wish him many, many more.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TIME FOR A CHANGE IN POLICY IN IRAQ

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, March 19 will mark the 3-year anniversary of

the Iraq war. For 3 years, we have heard the President respond to questions about his handling of the war in Iraq with, "Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?" Kind of like what Groucho Marx used to say.

For 3 years, we have seen the President and his supporters celebrate milestones in Iraq as an indication that the insurgency was "in its last throes," while the insurgency actually continues to grow and persist.

While the administration keeps trying to spin its way out of Iraq, we keep witnessing the truth. Today, for instance, John Negroponte told the Senate Armed Services Committee, "Even if a broad and inclusive national government emerges, there will almost certainly be a lag time before we see any dampening effect on the insurgency." In other words, even if we establish a functioning government and democracy, the insurgency in Iraq will persist, just the opposite of what the administration has been telling us.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that the President acknowledge what we can all see with our own eyes every night, that the administration's failure to secure the peace early in Iraq has led Iraq to the brink it is in today. Had we secured not just the war, but the first days of the occupation with a plan for that occupation and actually secured the country and had not allowed the first levels of insurgency to grow, to metastasize to what we have today, we would never have what we have now. But we went in with a plan for the war with not a single idea, not an iota of anything to do on the occupation.

Three years ago, brave men and women of the American Armed Forces fought brilliantly until defeating Saddam Hussein and his army. But the President failed to plan for the peace, and he failed to work quickly to establish order in Iraq and left it leaderless. In fact, many of our troops were on the sidelines as looting went rampant throughout Iraq, leading in that stage every way sequentially to what we have today. And why did it fail? Because he didn't listen to what we knew we had to do.

For the past 3 years, the President has maintained that if the American leaders in Iraq needed more troops, all they had to do was ask. Just last week the President said, "I will determine the troop levels in Iraq based on the recommendations of our commanders, not based only the politics of Washington, D.C."

Paul Bremer, the Ambassador to Iraq, the President's top man in Iraq, called for more boots on the ground in the days following the invasion and was ignored. On page 10 of Paul Bremer's book, "My Year in Iraq," Paul Bremer writes that he was alarmed by a report stating that we did not have enough troops on the ground to stabilize the country.

The report said: "The population of Iraq today is nearly 25 million. The population would require 500,000 troops

on the ground to meet a standard of 20 troops per 1,000. This number is more than three times the number of foreign troops now deployed in Iraq."

Paul Bremer writes: "I found the conclusions persuasive and troubling. That afternoon, I had a summary of the draft copied and sent down the corridor to Don Rumsfeld. 'I think you should consider this,' I said in my cover memo. I have never heard back from him about the report."

Now, I am not here to help sell books for Paul Bremer, but the President's top man asked for more troops to succeed in Iraq and never got an answer from either the President of the United States or from the Secretary of Defense. When Secretary Don Rumsfeld completely ignores the man who is in charge of America's most important policy mission, we have a problem.

A few days later, Paul Bremer got a chance to air his concerns to the President: "There is one other important issue, Mr. President. Troop levels."

Troop levels never increased. The troop level never got up. In Iraq, Bremer's worst fears were realized, and he writes: "According to CENTCOM briefings in Qatar, we didn't yet have enough troops in Baghdad to secure key tactical objectives, traffic circles, bridges, power plants, banks and munition dumps, and also patrol the streets."

We will never know for sure if more troops would have secured Baghdad in time to prevent the insurgency we see today, but we do know that the President's top man had asked for help and the President failed to respond, and the Secretary of Defense failed to respond; and today we are seeing the results of that failure. And we do know that 136,000 men and women who are there now do not have the support that they need.

If you look today in the New York Times in a poll done by Mr. Zogby, the American troops don't think we have enough troops. They also don't think we should continue to stay there at the level that we are there.

Retired Army Lieutenant General Bill Odom, former head of the National Security Agency, said that the invasion of Iraq "will turn out to be the greatest single strategic disaster in U.S. foreign policy."

Lawrence Wilkerson, former Secretary of State Colin Powell's chief of staff at the State Department, said President Bush's foreign policy was "ruinous" and said that "we have courted disaster in Iraq, North Korea, and in Iran."

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a change in policy.

RETAIN BYRNE-JAG GRANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, on February 16, while police

officers representing law enforcement organizations with over 100,000 members from every congressional district in the country were on Capitol Hill lobbying to save Byrne-JAG formula grants, police officers just outside the town of Monticello in my district in Minnesota were proving why the short-sighted elimination of the Byrne-JAG program must be rejected.

During a mid-afternoon traffic stop involving several individuals from Washington State in a vehicle likely stolen in California, a Minnesota State trooper noticed the smell of meth coming from a car.

After a brief search of the car with a trained drug dog, an elaborate trunk-latch device wired to the car's air conditioning knob was discovered and eight sealed packages and one large ziploc bag of meth were located in the car's passenger-side air bag compartment. In all, more than 11.5 pounds of meth worth over \$1 million was taken off our streets, along with several traffickers who profit from dealing this poison.

Mr. Speaker, 11.5 pounds of meth is the equivalent of over 45,000 hits. One hit of meth is enough to form an addiction more difficult to break than even heroin.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the police officers who made this bust and kept this staggering amount of meth out of the community in my district and likely those of many of my colleagues. However, Mr. Speaker, imagine how much meth they were not able to catch because of the devastating cuts to the Byrne-JAG program.

For the second year in a row, the administration has singled out the Byrne-JAG program for elimination, despite the fact that local police and the communities they protect praise the valuable source of crime-fighting grant money it provides.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join Representative LEE TERRY and me in our letter to the Budget Committee urging in the strongest terms that the President's proposal to eliminate Byrne-JAG grants not be followed and that this critical program to protect our communities from drugs and violent crime be funded at no less than \$900 million in the fiscal year 2007 budget cycle.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to my colleague who has been a leader on this issue, Representative DAVIS of Tennessee.

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Congressman KENNEDY has been a real leader and a fighter for the Brynes-JAG funding and methamphetamine issues in general. I applaud his efforts and his continued concern about our families and our Nation and certainly the States that we represent.

Mr. Speaker, methamphetamine abuse continues to be a growing plague

on America's families, communities and our economy. Abuse of this drug has swept across our Nation like a terrible storm that leaves in its wake broken families, endangered children, overcrowded jails, degraded environment and communities begging for help.

I cannot overstate the problems this drug creates. As Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez said in July of 2005, in terms of damage to our children and to our society, methamphetamine is now the most dangerous drug in America. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I was terribly disappointed to see that the President's budget for fiscal year 2007 completely cut funding for the Byrnes Justice Assistance Grants.

This program has been cited by State and local governments across the country as critical in their efforts to combat meth. In essence, it represents the combined effort among Federal, State and local governments to create safer communities. In my State the funding has helped fund the State's drug task force and helped fund local community crime prevention projects.

State officials back home have informed me that eliminating this program could reduce criminal justice funding to Tennessee by a total of \$11 million and eliminate 170 much needed individual projects across our State.

That is why I have joined with Representative KENNEDY and many of our other colleagues in urging the House Budget Committee to include at least \$900 million for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2007, which is still \$200 million less than the program's authorized level of \$1.1 billion.

We must fight this illicit drug head on. Just as we need to give our soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq the tools and resources needed for success, so too must we give our local law enforcement officials the tools they need to fight the war on drugs.

This program is a tool our local law enforcement officers desperately need. Congress must restore the funding. The risk in not doing so is simply too scary and the threat to our children's future is too great.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

THE STATE OF BEGGARDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, let me ask the "why" question tonight. Why would the United States allow itself to be reduced to a state of beggarmdom in the Dubai ports deal?

The definition of a beggar is a person, in this case a country, that lives by asking others for help or charity. So why would the United States allow itself, a nation that created Social Security, won World War II, landed a man

on the moon, why would our Nation let itself be reduced to beggary and the Nation, to beggards?

Why would any level of our government seek foreign ownership or leasing of any of America's key assets, our ports, airports, railroads, turnpikes, industrial plants, even endowments to Presidential libraries? Why would we do it, ever? But why would you do it particularly when we are a nation at war?

The answer is simple. It appears our Nation cannot afford to stand on its own two feet anymore. We beg foreign investment because we cannot pay our own way. Our jobs and productive wealth and manufacturing and agriculture are being shipped offshore every day. Our piggy bank is empty.

So our assets are being sold or leased to foreign interests. Our savings are drained. Our national debt is skyrocketing. So our society is selling off, releasing our crown jewels.

I do not agree with this. I have been fighting it ever since our Nation started to sell more and more of our U.S. debt securities to foreign interests, who now own half, half of the debt of this Nation, and we pay them over \$300 billion a year in interest and it is skyrocketing.

Some people who get elected, even Presidents, do not think that there are certain fundamentals in accounting that you must follow. They think that you can avoid responsibility in borrow-and-spend abandon. They think you can avoid responsibility. They mix up their love of money, frankly anybody's money, even foreign interests' money, with freedom's discipline. They somehow think it will all work out.

Well, America has been pushed to the edge of its financial resources with over \$7 trillion in debt, which is rising. The war in Iraq has cost billions too much. We were told we would be out of there in 6 months.

We are lectured by a President that we should become energy independent, yet during his presidency he has made us more dependent on foreign sources of oil, so we borrow and spend to make up the difference. And we are paying more and more for imported fuel and going deeper into debt with oil imports, now the largest share of our trade gap.

Budget numbers do not lie. Trade statistics do not lie. Who do you think is financing America's beggards? Foreign interests. The kind of folks who own Dubai Ports World. Trade deficits are exploding as we witness the import deluge into our country. Last year nearly a trillion dollars in trade debt, staggering, hard to find anything made here anymore.

So now we are in the fire sale phase. Rent out the ports, lease the Indiana Turnpike, sell off the auto industry, print the stationery in China. To live so recklessly and to spend so wildly does exact a price. It forces America to be reduced from our birthright of independence and the discipline that that entails to a sorry state of beggards.

Curious developments happen too. Why did George Bush, Sr. accept a million-dollar contribution to his Presidential library in Texas from the United Arab Emirates? Who was buying favor with whom and for what?

What is so shocking is that the vast majority of Americans oppose beggards, oppose the leasing of U.S. ports to any foreign interests, surely by those who could not prevent infiltration of their citizens to this country on 9/11.

Americans want to be independent. They love freedom, not beggards. The World Ports debacle is the latest evidence America's corporate and political elites, sometimes the same people, are selling out America's independence, making deals with undemocratic kingdoms.

Seven sheiks run the United Arab Emirates. It is not a democratic country. Dubai World Ports is a government-owned enterprise. Why should it compete with free enterprise in this country? That country does not recognize Israel, and it does not allow Christian crosses to be erected anywhere inside the borders of that nation. Who could believe that a nation that sent two terrorists into our Trade Towers and whose banks laundered money for 9/11 will now manage some of our major ports. Insanity.

Some people say our intelligence services failed us. I say our elected leaders have failed us, starting in the Oval Office. They fail us time and again because they are blinded by their own beggary. They used to say you could buy people here in Washington for a lunch. Wow, has the bar been raised.

America, awake. Patrick Henry's clarion had it right, give me liberty or give me death, no beggary, no beggards, no sellout of our Republic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE COMBAT METHAMPHETAMINE EPIDEMIC ELIMINATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, much of what we do here in Congress is very contentious. Our 1-minute and 5-minute tend to reflect a lot of those deep divisions. And while we sometimes share basic views, I think that they get carried to extremes sometimes on House debate.

I want talk about something we have actually done in a bipartisan way. We often hear that we do not do anything here in a bipartisan fashion and that all we can agree on are naming post of-

fices. But this week when the PATRIOT Act passes, inside the PATRIOT Act is the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Elimination Act, the largest and most comprehensive legislation ever done by a United States Congress on methamphetamine.

Nearly 20 years ago there were some attempts to regulate some of what was then called "crank" and some variations of methamphetamine that had already started in Asia and had been in Hawaii and had trickled in, even a decade ago or a little longer, into the West Coast, in Oregon and Washington State and California, but had not really hit the United States in full force.

Then over the last several years, Members of Congress have been coming here frustrated with the fact that our administration, from the Republican standpoint and from the Nation's, our present administration had not been responding aggressively enough to the Methamphetamine Act, and how to address the control of pseudoephedrine in the United States, as well as the ephedra and pseudoephedra that was coming into the United States that was making and going into the mom-and-pop meth labs, as well as the crystal meth.

Senators TALENT and FEINSTEIN introduced a bill on the Senate side to do what many States were doing, and that is, put pseudoephedrine behind the counter. Majority Whip BLUNT introduced similar legislation in the House.

In addition, Members from both parties introduced many different bills. Congresswoman HOOLEY and Representative KENNEDY, in particular, led the effort to try to go beyond just putting something behind the counter, but to try to regulate international legislation; and their bills were incorporated in a more comprehensive bill that then also absorbed the Blunt-Talent-Feinstein bill.

This all was attached to the PATRIOT Act. And I would have just as soon had a free debate here on the House floor and dealt with this, but part of the thing is that as we moved this meth bill through, we came under tremendous counterattack from the pharmaceutical industry that did not want any limitations on pseudoephedrine in the United States.

We came under heavy attack from the China lobby and the Mexico lobby that did not want the threat of decertification on them if they did not cooperate on controlling pseudoephedrine.

What this bill will do is limit the daily purchase, it will limit the monthly purchase, require purchasers to show ID and sign in a log book.

Therefore, as Indiana passes a law, people will no longer be able to go to Michigan and Ohio to get their pseudoephedrine and continue to kind of supply the raw material for all of the mom-and-pop labs, 900 last year in the State of Indiana, whereas Ohio only had 300, which, by the way, was a growth from 30.

But we go beyond just the control of pseudoephedrine and the few remaining

States that did not have that control. We closed loopholes in existing import-export and wholesale regulations, not only the main markets, but the spot market. There are basically only nine plants in the entire world that manufacture pseudoephedrine. We need China and India and several of the European countries, and the Czech Republic recently closed down their plant; we need to regulate this, know how many quantities are coming through. We need to do better control on the southwest border, where much of what pours in from other nations in the world, Mexico basically puts a minimum of 40 tons of raw pseudoephedrine beyond what they use in the United States that is used in mom-and-pop labs.

We also try to address not only the precursors for the mom-and-pop labs, but what immediately moves in behind. As we have seen in Oklahoma, as we have seen in many other States, and even in my State where the mom-and-pop labs go down, the crystal meth comes in behind.

The crystal meth is even more potent to the individuals. It is not as dangerous to the environment. It is not as dangerous to our local law enforcement people. You do not see explosions in homes that kill and maim little kids. But to the individual user, crystal meth is even more damaging than the homemade meth, because it is pure and even more addictive. And this often moves in behind.

So then the treatment programs are stressed, the highways still have people on it, that is why in addition to the behind-the-counter, we have got to go to the raw pseudoephedrine that is going into the crystal meth labs in Mexico and some of the super labs that are still left in the West.

We have increased and toughened penalties against meth traffickers and smugglers. We authorized the meth hot spots program, something the administration continues to try to zero out, and we have never had it authorized.

This authorizes that program which makes it much harder for the administration to try to eliminate it, as well as increases funding in the authorizing for drug courts, for the drug endangered children program and programs to assist pregnant women addicted to meth.

This is an historic step. When the Senate passes the PATRIOT Act tomorrow, there will be lots of debate about the PATRIOT Act and all of that. But inside that bill is the most significant bipartisan effort we have ever done in the United States Congress on methamphetamine.

And I am thrilled that it is finally going to become law after languishing and battling and watching all of the different interests try to defeat this. This is a triumph for bipartisanship. It is a triumph for locals who came to us and asked this to be done. It is a triumph to all of our narcotics officers around the United States and all of the drug treatment people around the

United States and prevention people who have been saying, when are you going to do something on meth? Well, this week we are.

OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, one cannot doubt that the American objective in Iraq has failed. Those are not my words. They were written last week by William F. Buckley, the godfather of modern American conservatism.

In a column entitled, *It Did Not Work*, Mr. Buckley urges an acknowledgment of defeat in Iraq. If President Bush has lost William F. Buckley, then his Iraq policy is in a heap of trouble.

By the way, I am eager to see if Mr. Buckley is labeled a treasonous coward, as my friend and colleague Mr. MURTHA was when he made similar points a few months ago.

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Who could blame Mr. Buckley, or anyone else with a pulse, for that matter, at arriving at this conclusion?

While we were away for our district work period, the bombing of a Shiite shrine ignited the most gruesome carnage that Iraq has ever seen since the war began nearly 3 years ago. The Washington Post reported on its front page this morning that a staggering 1,300 people died in last week's sectarian violence.

"Hundreds of unclaimed dead lay at the morgue at midday Monday," The Post reported, "blood-caked men who had been shot, knifed, garroted or apparently suffocated by the plastic bags still over their heads. Many of the bodies were sprawled with their hands still bound."

Is this what "freedom on the march" looks like, Mr. Speaker?

But we should not be surprised. It is not as if no one saw this coming. Those of us who opposed the Iraq war before it even started warned that an invasion would open up a Pandora's Box of ethnic strife that we would be unable to tame, that could lead to full-blown civil war.

The administration's Iraq policy is a tragic blunder of historic proportions. I can hardly believe that we have sacrificed 2,300 Americans and spent a quarter of a trillion dollars all so Iraq could slip into chaos and lawlessness, with the political process now hanging by the flimsiest of threads.

My heart weeps for our soldiers who have been put in this impossible situation. Various news reports describe some of our troops as hanging back during last week's violence. Why? Because rather than being able to calm the uprisings, they know that their very presence is actually one of the main catalysts for the violence in the first place. No wonder a new poll shows that our servicemen and -women in

Iraq believe we should leave and we should leave soon, with less than a quarter agreeing with President Bush that we should stay as long as it takes.

Here you see a complete folly that is our policy. Our preemptive occupation lit the original match that grew into this uncontrollable inferno. We do not have a hose to put it out. In fact, we pour gasoline on the fire every single day, a fire that is destroying Iraq, killing our soldiers, sending them home wounded almost beyond repair. And for what reason? If we are doing more harm than good, if we are a force for resentment and divisiveness, rather than peace and stability, what are we doing there?

Mr. Speaker, it has never been clearer that it is time to bring our troops home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF A CIVIL WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we are engaged in a great civil war. However, not our civil war but the Iraqis' civil war. We are caught in the middle of it. And there are some people who say that we do not have a plan, the Democrats have no plan.

Well, today JACK MURTHA sent around again to us a Dear Colleague. That is a method by which we in the House talk to one another; we let our colleagues know what we think or what is going on. JACK sent one around with his plan to pull the troops out of Iraq. Nobody is paying any attention to JACK MURTHA. They make fun of him as not being a patriot or something but they are missing the point. We are deeper and deeper and deeper in this war and there is no end.

Now, the American people have no excuse, nor does the Congress have any excuse for not knowing what we are into, because they put out from the Pentagon every year something called the "Quadrennial Defense Review." That is to tell us what we are going to do for the next 4 years. They have changed the language. They are not going to call it the war on terror anymore. It is now called "The Long War." And the one just put out and presented to the Congress outlines plans for 20 years into the future.

This administration has no intention whatsoever to pull out of Iraq or to pull the bases out of Iraq, or to do anything as sensible as what JACK MURTHA

has laid in front of the President. Worse than that, they are going to increase this. They are looking beyond Afghanistan and Iraq.

It is in the editorial today in *The Guardian*, which is a newspaper from England: "Looking beyond Iraq and Iran battlefields, U.S. commanders envisage a war unlimited in time and space against global Islamic extremism. 'The struggle may well be fought in dozens of other countries simultaneously and for many years to come.'"

How are they going to do that? Very simply. They are going to continue to spend us into debt. There will not be a dime to fix what is going on in New Orleans or the health care system or the educational system or anything else.

Listen to what is in that report. They want 15 percent more special forces, an extra 3,700 people in black operations, in PsyOps and civil affairs units. That is an increase of 33 percent. They will have people to run in and go and run these countries. They want nearly double the number of unmanned aerial drones.

Now, consider what an aerial drone is. That is something you take off in this country or take off somewhere, you fly over a country and somebody thousands of miles away says, drop the bomb over there at Seventh and Vine.

Now, consider what we are planning. We are planning to invade countries from the air without even being there. It will be like war games, like kids sitting in the front room with their little board games. That is what we are talking about. We are talking about taking our Trident nuclear submarines and refitting them, not to shoot up nuclear missiles, but to send up regular missiles. So they will pull alongside a country and fire a bunch of rockets into the country and they will fix them. This is what is going on. And America is sitting quietly by and watching this happen.

We are allowing the President and a very small number of people, Mr. Speaker, to make decisions. We have a Vice President who says he can now leak secret material anytime he figures he can use it. Use it to get us into another war. There are an awful lot of people on this floor, Mr. Speaker, who are very worried about the next 6 months in Iran because there is an election coming. And the only way you can get the people to vote the Republicans back in is by making them afraid. This is a vote of confidence on George Bush. And the people will have to vote "no" to get rid of them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address the deteriorating situation in Iraq. Over the past 10 days, we have seen a country on the brink of civil war slide into civil war.

On February 22, a bomb exploded at the Golden Mosque causing significant damage to one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines and setting off the latest and most violent sectarian violence since the war began in 2003.

Since the war began, we have witnessed almost daily bombings in Iraq. Thousands of IEDs have been exploded. Hundreds of suicide bombings have been staged. Tragically, the number of such attacks has grown each year, a stark contrast to the Vice President's prewar assessment that we would be greeted as liberators.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the number of insurgent attacks on our soldiers, Iraqi security forces, and civilians increased 29 percent in 2005 when compared to 2004. Specifically, the number of car bombs increased to 873 in 2005, more than twice of the number of car bombs in 2004, and the number of suicide car bombs went to 411 from 133.

Conservative estimates suggest that more than 30,000 Iraqi men, women and children have been killed since the war began. Unfortunately, Iraqis are not the only ones caught up in these attacks. More than 2,296 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq and more than 16,825 have been injured. And I am sorry, I do not have the number of amputees or suicides tonight. But they are serious.

Our very presence in Iraq fuels the death, destruction and has helped create the civil war which now endangers millions of lives. These are not just my words. The same thoughts and sentiments are being echoed throughout conservative America.

It was said here earlier tonight, William F. Buckley, Jr., the founder of "The National Review" recently wrote, "One cannot doubt that the American objective in Iraq has failed."

Bill Kristol, one of the war's staunchest defenders recently said, "We have not had a serious 3-year effort to fight a war in Iraq."

Even columnist George Will recently described Iraq in this manner. "This is a civil war," he said.

The bombing of the Golden Mosque pushed Iraq over the edge. Thousands of Iraqis are in the streets protesting and others are attacking their historical enemies in retaliation to the bombing of the Golden Mosque.

According to today's Washington Post, more than 1,300 individuals have been killed, and more than 1,000 Sunni mosques have been attacked since last week's bombing of the Golden Mosque. Instead of putting a stop to the violence, Iraq's security forces are con-

tributing to the murders. It is clear that some Iraqis have joined the Iraq Army to continue family or tribal feuds under the protection of the Iraqi military uniform and that many Iraqis do not trust the military because of ethnic divisions.

This is a stark difference from the President's words that the Iraqis are successfully assuming the role of protecting their fellow countrymen. It is very interesting to note that the very week that Iraq has seen the most violent sectarian violence in years, the Defense Department announced that the number of Iraqi Army battalions capable of fighting the insurgency without U.S. help had fallen from one to none since September 2005.

Last summer, a defense official claimed that there were three battalions ready to take on the insurgency. However, in September 2005, General George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the number of Iraqi battalions capable of fighting independently of U.S. troops had dropped from three to one. Therefore, despite 3 years and more than \$260 billion, we find that the number continues to decrease.

Now, the President is asking Congress to pass a supplemental appropriations request of \$75 billion for the Iraq war, the war on terrorism, and the gulf coast recovery efforts. The lion's share of this money, about \$63 billion, is for the Iraq war. If this bill passes, the total amount we will have spent on the war will be over \$350 billion.

The President is asking us to spend \$350 billion a war that his Administration claimed would be of minimal cost to American taxpayers.

Perhaps worse, the President wants to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on this war at a time when the Congress is pushing through tens of billions of dollars in cuts to Medicare, education, Community Development Block Grants and other important programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Administration has failed. It is long past time for our troops to come home. Civil war has broken out—we can not expect our soldiers to try to sort out which side is which in this civil war and we should not take sides. I urge the President to conclude this war and bring our troops home.

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MARKING THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT MASSACRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today marks a tragic anniversary for Armenians around the world. In late February of 1988, in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan, an organized attack on the Armenians of the town was carried out by Azerbaijani nationals. This 3-day rampage left dozens dead and hundreds injured.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the massacres in Sumgait, Azerbaijan, and the continued Turkish and Azeri aggression against the Armenian people.

This massacre left dozens of Armenians dead, a majority of whom were set on fire alive after being beaten and tortured. Hundreds of innocent people received injuries of different severity and became physically impaired. Women, among them minors, were abused. More than 200 apartments were robbed, dozens of cars were destroyed and burned, dozens of art and crafts studios, shops and kiosks were demolished, and thousands of people became refugees.

Mr. Speaker, these crimes were never adequately prosecuted by the Government of Azerbaijan, and most of its organizers and executors were simply set free. Despite the attempt by the Government of Azerbaijan to cover up these crimes, enough brave witnesses came forward to give an accurate account of the offenses.

The Sumgait massacres are just another in a long line of Azerbaijan's aggressions against the Armenian people. The events in Sumgait were preceded by a wave of Anti-Armenian rallies that shook the city in February 1988. Almost the entire territory of the city, with a population of 250,000, became an arena for mass violence against its Armenian population.

The attacks also marked the beginning of the violent Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which claimed nearly 30,000 lives and left over 1 million refugees. The continued hostilities in Azerbaijan and the military aggression against the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh in 1992 through 1994 led to the disappearance of a 450,000-strong Armenian community in Azerbaijan within a span of just a few years.

Mr. Speaker, today many Armenians marked the anniversary of the Sumgait massacre by organizing a march here in Washington from the embassy of Turkey to the embassy of Azerbaijan in order to highlight the continued Turkish and Azeri aggression toward the Armenian people.

The aggression I speak of, however, is still happening in a number of ways even today. There continues to be an organized effort to destroy historically sacred Armenian sites by the Government of Azerbaijan. Recently, there has been a documented video, evidencing the systematic destruction of a more than 1,000-year-old cemetery and historic carved stone crosses in the southern Nakhichevan region of Djulfa.

There are also continued attempts by Turkey and Azerbaijan to strangle Armenia's economy and its people's ability to survive through economic aggressions. The over 10-year blockade of Armenia by Turkey and Azerbaijan cuts off a valuable trade route through the country and further isolates Armenia. These blockades have been denounced by the United States, the United Nations and the European

Union, but they still exist as a way to starve the Armenian economy. The United States should do more to encourage the Turkish and Azerbaijani Governments to stop their illegal blockade of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, today, as the protesters walk the cold route from the Turkish embassy to the Azerbaijani embassy, the message should be heard loud and clear. It is time for the United States to do all that it can and to flex its geopolitical muscle in order to send a message that ethnically charged genocides, illegal blockades of sovereign nations and the constant harassment of the Armenian people will not be tolerated.

This anniversary reminds us yet again of the historical injustice the Armenian people have faced, unfortunately, throughout their history.

THE TRANSEA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration recently approved a deal, as we all know, that allowed the operation of six U.S. ports to be taken over by Dubai Ports World, a state-owned company controlled by the Government of the United Arab Emirates, a \$6.8 billion contract.

The administration's handling of this deal has drawn criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike, and rightly so.

The 9/11 Commission's final report warns of the United Arab Emirates' record of support for terrorism and its links to September 11, both strategic and financial.

The Congressional Research Service noted the UAE was named as a point of shipment for illegal nuclear components sold by Pakistan.

The U.S. Coast Guard told the administration, referring to the United Arab Emirates-controlled ports, that, "There are many intelligence gaps, concerning the potential for DPW or PNO assets to support terrorist operations."

These and other more serious concerns may have been overlooked, as the administration rushed its review of this deal, but what this instance really highlights is a much broader and longer-term concern, the lack of a systematic process for the review of homeland security issues associated with America's international trade policy.

In a post-9/11 world, trade agreements are no longer just vehicles for economic development. Trade agreements, to be sure, lower tariffs in open markets, but they also can lower our defenses as they open our ports and open our infrastructure and open our transportation and supply lines.

In the post-9/11 world, America's trade policies and America's homeland security policies cannot exist separate from each other and in isolation. The risk is simply too great.

For example, the United States Trade Representative right now is currently negotiating a trade deal with the United Arab Emirates. That trade deal would already have been in effect if it had been negotiated, passed by the Senate, passed by the House and signed by the President. It would likely have been declared illegal and unfair trade practice for us to cancel that \$6.8 billion deal.

The administration has it exactly backwards. Security needs to go in these trade agreements before they are signed, not pass a trade agreement and then hope for the best to protect the homeland.

Other trade pacts negotiated by the Bush administration have given foreign governments, and even foreign companies, the right to sue the U.S. for government actions that cost the company money. There is no reason to believe that such suits could not be filed in some cases to block homeland security policies. Those suits would be heard by an international tribunal meaning that the U.S. would no longer have independent control over our own national security decisions.

Before we implement the UAE agreement, the one that the U.S.T.R. is negotiating today or any other free trade agreement, we should have a full understanding of homeland security consequences.

That is why I introduced today the Trade-Related America National Security Enhancement and Accountability Act, the TRANSEA bill. My bill would do several things: require a systematic homeland security review of trade agreements, with sign-off from the U.S. Trade Representative, the Homeland Security Department and other responsible agencies, and with reporting to Congress.

Second, it would require that all future agreements include a national security waiver, allowing the President to suspend an agreement or any provision of an agreement if the President determines that the agreement creates a homeland security vulnerability.

Third, it would create an independent trade security commission to watchdog trade policy from a homeland security perspective and report to Congress on potential threats.

Last, it would allow Congress to force action if the administration fails to respond to a homeland security warning from the commission.

It is absurd to require that our constituents remove their shoes at the airport, but not require that multibillion dollar trade agreements undergo systematic homeland security review.

The TRANSEA Act is an important step toward a policy that reflects the realities of a post-9/11 world. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, very shortly now the juvenile diabetes people will be coming through the Congress. They do this every year, I believe.

I look forward to this visit with really mixed emotions. These children come in with this disease that has and will change their lives. Many of them are so brittle that they have to have a pump embedded under their skin that pumps insulin, because the sugar may go violently up or down with potentially disastrous effects on the person. Many times a day they may have to get a droplet of blood to determine the sugar level.

They will appeal to us, as they have every year for the past 5 years, please vote for Federal funds for embryonic stem cell research because they believe, like the loved ones of many other types of patients, that there could truly be miracle cures from embryonic stem cells. They will tell us that there are several hundred thousand embryos out there that are frozen in fertility clinics.

I have a daughter-in-law who is going through that process now. They harvest eggs. They fertilize the eggs. First, they have to give a hormone treatment to the prospective mother so that there will be the production of more than just the one egg that is produced normally per month. They will harvest a number of eggs, 8, 10, 12 eggs. Then they will fertilize those eggs, and they will watch their growth in the laboratory, and they will choose two or three of what look like the strongest fertilized eggs, and then they will implant those in the prospective mother.

The remaining eggs are frozen. It costs money to keep them there. The family may pay for that process because these little embryos that are implanted may not take, and they may need to do it again, and frozen, they could last quite a while, and they may want to have another child. So they will pay to keep them frozen for a while; but by and by, time and changes in the family, they will see no further need to keep them frozen. When they cease doing that, then the laboratory must either dispose of the embryos or bear the expense of keeping them frozen.

So each year a number of these embryos are discarded, and there has been an appeal, which has been bought into by some of my very good friends in the Congress, that from an ethical perspective, why should we not get some med-

ical use from these embryos that are going to be discarded anyhow.

That is a tough position to put pro-life people in, and the reason that most, but not all, pro-life advocates are opposed to this is because they view this as the beginning of a slippery slope. Today, you are permitting the use of surplus embryos that are going to be discarded anyhow; tomorrow, you might be producing embryos. They may be stronger, younger. You may be producing embryos just so you can discard them so you could use them for medical research.

I remembered the juvenile diabetes groups that come through, the children and their parents when, in 2000, I went to the National Institutes of Health when they had a briefing for Members of Congress and staff on embryonic stem cell research, the potentials and the challenge. There were a number of staff there. I think that I was the only Member of Congress who was there.

I went there from a somewhat unusual background, a different background than the average Member of Congress, because in a former life, I went to school and got a doctorate in human physiology. I got it not in a medical school but at an arts and sciences campus, and so we had to take a great variety of courses.

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Things like limnology and ichthyology and cytology and protozoology and advanced genetics. And one of the courses I took was advanced embryology. And in that course I had an opportunity to study and learn something about the process which is so familiar to anybody who has studied biology in life, that is, the development of the embryo and how this process goes.

I recognized that occasionally in humans in the early embryo, sometimes at the two-cell stage and sometimes later, and you can tell by how the babies present whether they share an amnion or simply share the chorion; how they present at birth you can tell at roughly what time in the development of the embryo did it split. And each of those halves of the original embryo, either one cell if it was a two-cell stage, or multiple cells if it was further along in the development before it split, each half produces what appears to be a perfectly normal baby. We call them identical twins. And there are tens of thousands of them out there and a great deal of scientific interest is in these twins.

And a lot of research has been done, because when you are looking at two genetically identical people, you have an opportunity to make some studies and observations that you would have to use a great many more subjects to make using the usual genetic different subjects.

And so recognizing that you could take half of the cells away from the original embryo and each half produced a perfectly normal baby, I rationalized,

gee, it ought to be possible to take a cell from the early embryo and it would not even know it. And that is because all the cells in the early embryo are what we call totipotent or at least pluripotent. Totipotent means they can produce another embryo if you take the cell out, and pluripotent means they can produce all of the cell types that make up the body. By the time they are pluripotent, they have lost the ability to coordinate all of the different kind of cells into an integrated individual, so they could not produce an embryo.

I asked the researchers at NIH, should it not be possible to take a cell from an early embryo without killing the embryo, probably without hurting the embryo, since in every set of identical twins half of the cells have been taken away from the embryo.

And by the way, Mr. Speaker, one of those is a clone. I guess you can decide which one of those identical twins you would identify as the clone, but clearly one of them is a clone, and both of them develop into what appears to be, by observations over hundreds of years and more recently many years of intensive physiological and medical observation, what appear to be perfectly normal human beings.

And so I asked the researcher at NIH, shouldn't it be possible to take a cell from an early embryo without killing the embryo, probably without hurting it? And they said, yes, they thought that should be possible. So a few days after that I happened to be at an event when the President was there, and I knew that he was laboring with a decision, a very difficult decision, of whether he was going to permit Federal dollars to be used in embryonic stem cell research when presently at that time the only source of embryonic stem cells resulted from the destruction of an embryo.

So I told the President about the meeting at NIH and about my discussion with the researchers there, and a few days later I got a call from Karl Rove. The President had remembered that conversation and turned the follow-up over to Karl Rove, and Mr. Rove told me that he had gone to NIH and had spoken with the investigators there, and they had told him that that was not possible. I said, Karl, either they are funning you or they misunderstood your question, because these are the same people that can go into an individual cell and take out the nucleus and put another nucleus in that cell. And they are telling you they cannot take a cell or two out of a big embryo?

So he went back and asked them again and came back and called me a second time and said, Roscoe, they tell me that they cannot do that. I wondered at the time what had happened. And a couple of years later, when the researchers at NIH were in my office, they somewhat sheepishly admitted that they had permitted Mr. Rove to believe something that wasn't quite true. Because what they had told him

was that they weren't sure that they could produce a stem cell line from a single cell taken from an early embryo.

That is exactly what my bill had proposed to do, was to determine, with animals, whether in fact that was possible or not. They had not meant for him to believe that it was not possible to take a cell from an early embryo.

Now, I cannot get inside their head to tell you, Mr. Speaker, why they permitted Mr. Rove to go away with this misconception. I can only tell you that I think that if I were in their place, I would have judged that the President might very well make the decision that it was okay to use these discarded embryos. Because, after all, they were going to be discarded anyhow, and the potential for life-saving medical applications was so great that I think that they may have rationalized that the President was going to issue an executive order which would make possible the use of Federal funds in the study of embryonic stem cells taken from these surplus embryos. That, of course, is not what the President did.

I am happy to be joined this evening by Dr. GINGREY, and I wanted to engage him in a dialogue, because I think that the same kind of an emotional response that might have permitted the researchers at NIH to permit this discussion to result in a misconception by Mr. Rove, that an analogous emotional response on the part of many pro-life advocates makes it very difficult for them to even talk about the potential of any form of embryonic stem cell research because they are so conditioned that the only way in the past that we have been able to get embryonic stem cells was by destroying an embryo, and so they equate any discussion of embryonic stem cell research as requiring the destruction of an embryo.

The President has a bioethics council that published a white paper in which they talked about four different techniques, potentially bioethically acceptable that could produce embryonic stem cells without destroying an embryo. And I wonder what is the best approach, because we want to carry everybody along with us. I want no one to be offended that what we are proposing, what has been proposed as a matter of fact by the President's council on bioethics is a violation of our fundamental belief that life is sacred. Every life is sacred, and particularly the least of these, this totally defenseless embryo. Their life is sacred, and we must protect that.

So the research that I am proposing, that my colleague has been supporting, does exactly that. And I am wondering what is the best way to bring this community along with us so that they understand that there are potential techniques that could be used for producing embryonic stem cells that will not consist of destroying or even hurting the embryo. What do you think is the best way to approach this?

Mr. GINGREY. Well, first of all, let me thank the gentleman from Mary-

land for his legislation, H.R. 3144, and for allowing me to spend a little time with him this evening as we try to explain to our colleagues what we are talking about here and what is the essence of the Bartlett bill.

I think the gentleman is correct that the perception among those of us who are strongly pro-life, and I think most of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle sort of know each other's former profession before we came to this august body, and I practiced medicine, not just an M.D., but specializing in obstetrics and gynecology; and so over a 26-year period, doing the average number of deliveries a doctor would do in a year, that amounts to over 5,000; and very proudly I can stand here tonight and say that I am pro-life and have never performed an abortion.

But I think that in response to the gentleman's question, people that are pro-life know that embryonic stem cell research that was ongoing before President Bush made his decision 2 or 3 years ago, that those stem cell lines were indeed obtained from this so-called excess. Really not excess. Cannot tell that to the Snowflake babies that have been adopted, those embryos, and there are close to 100 of those precious children alive today, but the pro-life community, indeed, everybody understood that the stem cell lines that were created were created from the destruction of embryos that were produced utilizing artificial reproductive technology that the gentleman from Maryland so adequately explained.

And of course those children, and I say children, they are embryos, but they certainly become children. They become fetuses, and they become children, and they become young adults, and they become middle-aged and senior citizens. They are human life. And, basically, what the President said is those that have already been destroyed to create these cell lines, we will allow researchers, our scientists, to apply for grants to conduct the research on those cell lines, those embryonic stem cells, but not to destroy any more life; to put a moratorium on that and to absolutely not continue to destroy life.

In fact, in 1999, President Clinton's National Bioethics Advisory Commission, NBAC, acknowledged broad agreement in our society that early human embryos "deserve respect as a form of human life." They recommended funding of embryonic stem cell research only if there were no alternatives. But what Congressman BARTLETT is talking about tonight, of course, is an alternative, a viable, if I can use that term, a viable alternative. And that is what he has outlined for us in this legislation, and I know he will talk about that.

But the important point is that people who are pro-life understand this, that taking a cell or two from an embryo, once it has gotten to the point where those cells are not totipotent, that you are not literally taking maybe something that in itself could

divide and become an embryo; you get beyond that stage to what he describes as pluripotent.

And the difference in those two capabilities in those embryonic cells is hugely important to the pro-life community. And he, of course, has done such a great job tonight, and I commend him for that, of explaining how in nature this occurs with the division of a multi-cell embryo to become identical twins; and it is, I think, a good explanation. And I think that is probably what is important, in response to your question, my good friend from Maryland, is this educational process.

And I know you have worked on this. I do not know how many times you have done this Special Order, but you have honored me in giving me an opportunity to participate with you and get into a colloquy and discuss some of these issues. This is the way to do it. This is the seed corn. This is what gets it started. It is a matter of understanding that there is an alternative to destruction of human life for the betterment of other lives.

□ 2100

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Dr. GINGREY, thank you very much.

There is another consequence of this understandable emotional reaction on the part of the pro-life community, and that is the statement that is made over and over again that we have, I think it is up to 70-some now, treatments or cures from adult stem cells and none from embryonic stem cells; therefore, why would you want to bother looking at embryonic stem cells?

The reason we have 70-some treatments from adult stem cells is we have been working with them for about 3 decades and we have been working with embryonic stem cells for just a little over 6 years. A newborn baby cannot run a marathon, and there just has not been time for the medical community to develop the potential from embryonic stem cells.

I will be the first to tell you that this research may be very disappointing. I hope that it will not be, because these cells really want to divide, and like an obstreperous teenager, they may be very difficult to control. But the hope is that since embryonic stem cells can certainly make any and every tissue and, potentially, organ in the body, they ought to have the greatest potential.

And I wonder what we need to do so that the statement is not repeated that it is really silly to talk about embryonic stem cell research because we have 70-some treatments or cures from adult stem cells and none yet from embryonic stem cells. That is, of course, a true statement, but you need to put it in context. The reason for it is we have been working for more than 3 decades with adult stem cells and just a little over 6 years with embryonic stem cells. And I want our community to have credibility at the end of the day.

How do we meet this emotional challenge?

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I think it really is a good point that you are making that we have been utilizing adult stem cells for a long time, for many years, and whether we are talking about cells that are obtained from bone marrow or from blood, even, of course, some umbilical cells. But as the gentleman points out, there have been some real great success stories reported: cancers, including ovarian and testicular cancer; leukemia; Hodgkin's disease; stroke; heart disease; Parkinson's disease; as the gentleman mentioned, juvenile diabetes; Crohn's disease, an inflammatory disease of the bowel which can be so devastating.

And I think ROSCOE BARTLETT, the gentleman from Maryland, mentioned maybe 58, in total, success stories. But the earliest cell, I think, has the greatest potential, and that is basically the point that the congressman is making and why his bill, H.R. 3144, to provide funding, very necessary funding, to do the basic and applied research starting in animal models to show that you indeed can take these, again, not totipotent but pluripotent, so not another embryo, but something that has gone beyond that stage that does not have the capability in and of itself of becoming a human being. That is what we want to say to the pro-life community.

So we are taking, though, the very earliest beyond that stage cell, and there is no telling what tissue it can develop into, whether we are talking about brain tissue and trying to treat people, God rest his soul, like Christopher Reeves or other people with spinal cord injuries, or someone with severe Parkinson's disease or Alzheimer's or juvenile diabetes where you create islet cells that you can transplant into a person's pancreas that, because of a genetic defect, has no islet cells.

So that is really, I think, the answer, to say why it is worth the effort, why it is absolutely worth the effort. First and foremost, you do not have to take human life for the betterment of other human lives, and we want to build on the success of utilization of adult stem cells and go that extra mile, and this is what this bill will do, allow us to do the basic research, fund it with Federal dollars so we can get to that point.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Thank you very much. I appreciate your mentioning the diabetes, particularly juvenile diabetes.

The deficiency, of course, is in the Islet of Langerhan cells, named after the German scientist who first saw them. They are like little islands scattered through the pancreas. I have no idea why they are in the pancreas. They have no relationship to the physiology of the pancreas; they just happen to be there, and they are not producing enough insulin. But replacing the insulin does not cure diabetes because the person who has diabetes will end up with eye problems, circulatory problems, toes that they lose, gangrene, and so forth.

And these children now are starting out with the absolute certainty that they are not going to have the quality of life of other children because just replacing the insulin does not cure diabetes. It controls many of the effects, but there will still be consequences to the diabetic.

And as you mentioned, there is the hope that with embryonic stem cells we could grow Islet of Langerhan tissues. And you would not have to put those back into the pancreas. You could, as a matter of fact, put them in the groin or under the arm or under the skin, anywhere. They just have to have access to circulation. They will produce the insulin. The circulation will pick up the insulin, and then it flows to the liver and the cells of the body where it does its miracle work.

But this is the reason that they are so enthusiastic about embryonic stem cell research, because of all of the diseases out there. And we spend more money on diabetes than any other disease in the country, and there is probably more debility and suffering from diabetes than any other disease in the country. And that is why they are so adamant in their desire that we permit Federal dollars to be spent, because with the power of NIH and the peer review, and they have created miracles in the past, they hope they can do another one.

I would like to just look for a moment at the physiology, and the chart, boy, this is really abbreviated. I will show you a little more expanded one in a moment.

But the two gametes come together and produce what is called a zygote, and this is the fertilized cell. It now has half the genes from the mother and half the genes from the father. And then that fertilized cell grows through several stages, and they have skipped the morula stage here and they go right to the blastula and then to the gastrula. And here you start the differentiation into the three germ layers.

Every tissue of our body develops from one of the three germ layers: the endoderm, that is what is inside; and the mesoderm, that is what is in the middle; and the ectoderm. Very interestingly, the parts of the adult body that develop from ectoderm is our skin and our nervous tissue. Most of this, by weight, develops from mesoderm. All the muscles, all the bones develop from mesoderm. And here you see at the bottom are derivatives of the ectoderm and the mesoderm and the endoderm, and then the unique cells, the germ cells, the sperm in the male and the egg in the female.

Now, adult stem cells, when you hear people talk about adult stem cells, what they are talking about is a cell down here, and one of the easiest ones to talk about are adult stem cells that have to do with making blood, and these stem cells found in the bone marrow primarily can produce a variety of cells. The polymorpho-nuclear leukocytes, the erythrocytes, the

thrombocytes, all of those can be produced.

Now, you can take an adult stem cell and trick it into believing that it has not gone through all of this differentiation, that it is somewhere back here so that it can now make tissues other than just the ones that it was destined to make and the organ from which you took it. And these are the techniques that are used in adult stem cell research and treatment.

The next chart shows a little more detail in this development process, and this shows it in the reproductive tract of the female. Here is the ovary from which the egg is released. And the egg now starts a long journey down through the fallopian tube. It will be 7 to 10 days before it finally implants in the uterus. The sperm, of course, makes its way from the vagina up through the uterus and through the fallopian tube, and it fertilizes the egg. It shows it very correctly here. Fertilization occurs well up in the fallopian tube. A little later down and it cannot be fertilized.

And this shows the production of the zygote. It shows the first cleavage to produce a two-cell mass. At this point these two cells could separate to produce two embryos, two babies. We know them as identical twins. Or it can go on to split into four cells and eight cells, and I will come back to the eight cell in just a moment because that is the one medically that is of considerable interest.

Then it becomes a morula. You see it there, the compacted morula. And then you get the inner-cell mass, which you saw a pretty good picture of in the previous slide. And, of course, what we are talking about is what goes on in the laboratory now in a petri dish. You fertilize it there rather than in the reproductive tract, but the same sequence of development occurs. And they simply take the inner-cell mass out of the embryo and squash it and kill it and take the cells out to produce a stem cell line.

In the laboratory, in in vitro fertilization, they grow the embryos up to the eight-cell stage, and it is at that stage that they have the most luck in implanting them in the uterus of the female. Several years ago in England, a clinic there began taking a cell, and sometimes they got two, from the eight-cell stage, and they did a preimplantation genetic diagnosis on it because if you had the option of making sure that your baby was not going to have a genetic defect like trisomy 21, mongolism, for instance, you certainly would want to avoid that if you could.

They do a preimplantation genetic diagnosis, and if there is no genetic defect, they then take the remaining six or seven cells and implant them, and now worldwide I suspect there have been more than 2,000 babies born.

There is a clinic just outside Washington, in Virginia, and a year ago I spent more than a half hour talking

with two of the physicians there who have been doing this technique. So we now are producing babies with this technique, with the assurance that there will not be any genetic defects.

Another really good use of that cell that you take from that, and I have to credit Mr. Dorflinger with this, the spokesman for the Conference of Catholic Bishops, and he suggested that the most ethical reason for taking a cell from the early embryo, even more ethically defensible than doing a preimplantation genetic diagnosis, would be making a repair kit. That is sort of the goal when you freeze the cord blood, and we had a bill that everybody but one voted for that gave Federal dollars for freezing cord blood.

Those will not be embryonic stem cells. They will be adult stem cells, but at least they are closer to the genetic identity of that person than other cells would be. And more than 2,000 times worldwide now we have had a perfectly normal baby from that process.

So what I had proposed to the people has, in fact, been done. And what I envision at the end of the day in our bill, H.R. 3144, does not support experimentation in humans. It is only animal experimentations to verify that these procedures are, in fact, doable and efficacious and that the embryo is not harmed.

□ 2115

This technique and three other techniques are included in the white paper prepared by the President's council on bioethics, alternative sources of human pluripotent stem cells.

Dr. Gingrey mentioned totipotent and pluripotent, and I would like to spend a moment talking about that. Totipotent means that the cell you take could produce another embryo. Pluripotent means that it could produce all the cells, tissues, organs of the body; but it does not have the capability to organize them into a person. Ethically, if you took a cell that was totipotent, you would simply be creating a new embryo, and so the argument starts all over again. So you need to take a cell from a stage where it is just pluripotent, not totipotent.

I am assured by the research community that no one has ever been successful in developing an embryo with a cell taken from the eighth stage. You see, these cells know, and I use that term advisedly, know that ultimately they are going to differentiate, and apparently that differentiation problem has started well before you see the three germ layers developing, because between the fourth stage and the eight-cell stage, they have lost their ability to be totipotent. They can now only be pluripotent. As Dr. Gingrey pointed out, it is very essential that ethically you take cells that could only be pluripotent.

I have two quick slides here that look at the development of twins. This is the two intercell masses. These are when the twins develop, the identical

twins develop later, when it splits later. You can see that because they each have their own amnion. They share a chorion, of course, but they each have their own amnion.

Let me see the next one, which shows how you have what are called fraternal twins. Here you have two eggs produced by the mother, ordinarily only one, sometimes two, sometimes three, but ordinarily only one egg, unless you are giving some hormone treatment. Then those are now presented in separate chorions. They, of course, have their own amnion, which is the tissues around the baby which contains the fluid in which the baby floats, and the tissue around that is called the amnion.

There are four techniques in the white paper. I would like to look at the technique that I have been looking about. Number two in the white paper.

They credit me with suggesting that. There is a little footnote: "A similar idea was proposed by Representative ROSCOE BARTLETT of Maryland as far back as 2001," and I think I actually talked to the President before that. They say it may be some time before stem cell lines can be reliably derived from single cells. We have two investigators, Landry and Verlinsky, who claim that they have done that.

You see, these cells love company, and they don't behave well if they are alone and they don't have company, so that is why there was the concern that maybe you could not develop an embryonic stem cell line from a single cell. But these two investigators have done it in a very clever way. They provide company for the cells, and then they separate the company, these are other types of cells, they separate the embryonic cells from the other cells that provided company for them to encourage them to continue the division process.

A second technique, as a matter of fact it was number one, mine was number two, the first technique that they talked about is a really interesting one. What this does is to propose the use of cells from an embryo much like we use organs from a cadaver. Everybody is familiar with that, and there are many people that have a will that say you can harvest their organs to benefit somebody if that would be useful.

When you create these embryos in the laboratory, not all of them are robust. A fair percentage of them never make it. They divide through a few stages for a few days and then just die. This proposal is if you determine that the embryo is moribund, and there is pretty good scientific evidence that you can do that with quite some certainty, kind of equivalent to determining a person is brain dead and therefore there is no chance that they can go on with life as we know it, and his proposal is that if you determine that the embryo is not going to make it, that it will die, but before it dies, you then take a cell or cells from the

embryo to create an embryonic stem cell line. This is very equivalent to taking organs from a cadaver.

There may be some question as to whether you can get a really good strong cell from an embryo that is in a day or two going to be dead, but it is possible that you could do that. My bill actually asks for Federal dollars to explore all of these techniques with animal models.

I was talking to one of the researchers, Dr. Hurlbut, the other day. This is Dr. Landry's proposal. I noted that I would be enormously surprised if what we found in the great apes was not going to be what we found in humans, and he agreed that he too would be enormously surprised.

It may be somewhat humbling, but we share a vast majority of our organs with the great apes, the chimpanzees and orangutans and gorillas. You have to look to see genetic differences. They have the same number of chromosomes, and we share many, many, most, 90-odd percent of all the chromosomes. So it would be very unlikely that what we found in animals would not occur in humans.

We have a couple more charts that address this. There has been a lot of thought given to this, and I think that we have one; let's look at the one that actually shows the depiction, yes, that one. Let us look at that one.

That shows what happens in these cells, these embryos, in just a couple of days. They go from a perfectly normal looking embryo to a dead embryo, but there are clues that that is a certain result that the experts can see in these cells.

So this is a potentially viable, I believe ethically acceptable technique, very analogous to taking organs from a cadaver. This is simply taking cells from what would be the equivalent in an embryo of a cadaver, an embryo that will not live, that will die.

There is another technique, and I would like to submit two papers here for the RECORD, and these are papers describing another technique, a very interesting one. This is Dr. Hurlbut's contribution.

Researchers can take an oocyte, that is the egg from a mother, and they can take the nucleus out of that oocyte and place a nucleus from an ordinary cell, like a skin cell, inside the cell, and then with a little shock treatment you can trick the cell into believing that it was fertilized, and it will go on to develop into an individual. That is how we got Dolly the Sheep. It is called cloning.

Dr. Hurlbut's suggestion is, and this is called epigenetic nuclear transfer, that he alters that. The nucleus that you place in the cell has an induced genetic defect. They alter one of the genes so that the result cannot produce an embryo.

There are things that happen in some mothers where you have growths and they will have teeth and hair, but it certainly is not a baby. It is not coordinated. You can turn off this gene so

that what you have produced is not an embryo, could not be a baby.

It is very interesting that the way you turn that off is by RNA, ribonucleic acid, rather than deoxy ribonucleic acid, which is what is in the nucleus and what makes up the genes and chromosomes. The RNA is out in the cytoplasm, and I am not so sure that a clone is going to be that identical to the original because the RNA, the cytoplasmic RNA, is going to be different; and the cytoplasmic RNA has a big influence because it can turn on and turn off genes. This is the technique used for doing this.

This, I think, is from *Nature Magazine*, one of the premier scientific journals. It is the British equivalent to our *Science Magazine*. It is really multidisciplinary and very discriminating in the articles that it prints.

The bottom sequence here shows what he would do. He is producing something that cannot be a baby because the gene that is responsible for the organization of these various types of cells into a coherent human being is turned off. By the way, whether he turns that off in the cytoplasmic nucleus before he puts it in the cell so you avoid the argument that you are altering an embryo, because it is not an embryo, it is just a nucleus from a skin cell and he turns off the gene there, and then he takes the cell out of an oocyte and places this nucleus from the skin cell with the genetic alteration, places it in there. This is also a potentially viable technique.

All of these, by the way, you can argue that you may have some ethical problem with it. You may argue that you are intentionally creating a freak here just so you can harvest the cells from it. But since you are doing this before you place the nucleus in the oocyte, you are simply altering the nucleus in a skin cell, I think you can get by the ethical arguments.

Let us go back for a moment to the ethical arguments, because they are very important. I want to make sure that sensitivities of nobody in the pro-life community are violated.

The technique that I suggested to the President and the one that is described in our bill, we would not get the stem cells until several things had happened over which we have no control and no influence. The first thing is that a couple has decided that they are going to do in vitro fertilization. In addition, they have decided that they want to create a repair kit for their baby. They may or may not decide that they want to do a pre-implantation genetic diagnosis.

By the way, you can do both of those in the same cell. You simply culture the cell and you have now more than one, ultimately many, so you can take a cell for pre-implantation genetic diagnosis. They will have made the decision they want a repair kit. All we are asking for is a few surplus cells, one will do, a few would be better, a few surplus cells from their repair kit.

What this would do is provide for that baby, then a child, then an adult, throughout its life the potential that if it had diabetes, you could develop other Langerhans cells from its repair kit that are genetically absolutely identical to the person so there would now be no threat of rejection. This would clearly, clearly be miracle medicine.

I think we have gotten by the ethical objections, because whether or not you believe that parents ought to use in vitro fertilization, these parents have decided to do that. Whether or not you believe they should take a cell to produce a repair kit, these parents have decided to do that. So they have already made those two decisions, both of which I think are ethical.

□ 2130

Parents really want a child when they will go to the extent of in vitro fertilization. As I mentioned, my daughter-in-law is going through that. And after the surgery for harvesting of the cells, she cannot even drive a car for quite a while. This is not a casual procedure.

So these are loving parents who want a child. And I think it would be very rational that they would want that child to have a repair kit if they could, and we are simply asking for a few surplus cells from the repair kit.

I should mention the fourth procedure that is in this white paper, and that is the dedifferentiation of the adult cells. This dedifferentiation is a play on differentiation, and what happens is that the single cell produced by the union of two gametes, called the zygote, this cell now differentiates. It produces tissues that are endoderm, from which the lining of your intestinal tract and lungs and the lining of your blood vessels will come, the mesoderm and so forth. So they have differentiated.

You can now potentially get the equivalent of an embryonic stem cell if you can simply take one of these adult cells and trick it into believing that it has not differentiated. What you will do is dedifferentiate it.

I do not know how consistently you can do that, but that is why we need to do the research. On occasion you can do that, and I do not know how consistently you can do it. I do not know how viable the tissues will be once you have done it, but that is the reason that you do research.

I would just like to again mention that our bill, 3144, does not provide any Federal funds for any work on humans. It is only animal experimentation. And it would provide Federal money for working on all of the techniques that the President's Council on Bioethics indicated might be ethically acceptable under the right circumstances.

Of course, one of the things that is very much involved in whether it is ethical or not is, does it do harm to the baby? And that is why the animal experimentation first. We want to make

sure that in fact these techniques can occur. We want to make sure that there is no negative effect on the embryo.

There should not be, Mr. Speaker, unless you think that identical twins are somehow deficient, there should not be any medical effect, because we have, over hundreds of years, tens of thousands of identical twins, all of which appear to be perfectly normal human beings.

The potential for healing, medical applications in embryonic stem cells is just incredibly great, which is why the big interest in this. It is why the people at NIH would really like funding for this. It is why the groups that will come to see us, the juvenile diabetic groups that come to see us, will be advocating so strongly for research with embryonic stem cells, because this really could be a big, big breakthrough.

It could provide miracle cures that we can only dream of today. We need to make very sure that we are not crossing ethical bounds, that we are purely ethical.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that none of my friends in the pro-life community be offended by any of this research, which is why the animal experimentation first, with a clear bioethical look at this.

I appreciate very much this opportunity to discuss this. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the articles I referenced earlier.

PRODUCTION OF PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS BY OOCYTE ASSISTED REPROGRAMMING

As described in the President's Council on Bioethics' recent White Paper, altered nuclear transfer (ANT) is a broad conceptual proposal for producing pluripotent stem cells without creating and destroying embryos. In the description set forth below, we outline a research program for a form of ANT that should allow us to produce pluripotent stem cells without creating or destroying human embryos and without producing an entity that undergoes or mimics embryonic development. The method of alteration here proposed (oocyte assisted reprogramming) would immediately produce a cell with positive characteristics and a type of organization that from the beginning would be clearly and unambiguously distinct from, and incompatible with, those of an embryo. Incapable of being or becoming an embryo, the cell produced would itself be a pluripotent cell that could be cultured to establish a pluripotent stem cell line. Significantly, this cell would not be totipotent, as a zygote is.

Our proposal is for initial research using only nonhuman animal cells. If, but only if, such research establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that oocyte assisted reprogramming can reliably be used to produce pluripotent stem cells without creating embryos, would we support research on human cells.

With few exceptions all human cells contain a complete human genome, i.e. the complete DNA sequence characteristic of the human species. Specifically, one-celled human embryos, pluripotent human embryonic stem (or ES) cells, multipotent human adult stem cells, and differentiated (specialized) adult human cells such as neurons all contain a complete human genome. Thus, possession of a human genome is a necessary but not sufficient condition for defining a

human embryo with its inherent dignity. Rather the nature of each cell depends on its epigenetic state, i.e. which subset of the approximately thirty thousand human genes is switched on or off and, if on, at what level. For example, the gene for albumin, a liver specific protein, is found both in human embryos and in adult human liver cells called hepatocytes. However, neither the messenger RNA (mRNA) for albumin nor the protein itself is found in single-celled embryos because in them the gene is silenced.

This fundamental observation has given rise to the concepts of cell fate plasticity and epigenetic "reprogramming." If successful, reprogramming converts a cell from one kind to another by changing its epigenetic state. The ability to clone animals, such as Dolly the sheep, by transfer of a specialized adult nucleus to an enucleated oocyte demonstrates the power of epigenetic reprogramming: the oocyte cytoplasm is sufficient to reprogram the somatic nucleus to a totipotent state. Human cloning has been proposed as a means of generating human embryos whose pluripotent stem cells would be used in scientific and medical research. Here, through a form of altered nuclear transfer, we propose to utilize the power of epigenetic reprogramming in combination with controlled alterations in gene expression to directly produce pluripotent cells using adult somatic nuclei, without generating and subsequently destroying embryos.

How do pluripotent stem cells differ from totipotent single-celled embryos? Several key transcription factors essential for establishing and maintaining the pluripotent behavior of ES cells have been identified. Importantly, some of these are specifically expressed only in pluripotent cells, such as embryonic stem cells or the cells found in the inner-cell-mass (ICM) of the week-old embryo or blastocyst. They are not expressed in oocytes or single-celled embryos. Expression of these factors therefore positively defines and distinguishes mere pluripotent cells from embryos. These factors instruct a cell to have the identity of a pluripotent cell. Currently, the best studied example is the homeodomain transcription factor called *nanog* (Mitsui, Tokuzawa et al. 2003*). *Nanog* is not present in oocytes or single-celled embryos, but first becomes expressed weakly in the morula and then highly in the ICM (Mitsui, Tokuzawa et al. 2003; Hatano, Tada et al. 2005). Deletion of *nanog* does not prevent early cleavage stages of embryogenesis including formation of the ICM but does prevent the formation of an epiblast (Mitsui, Tokuzawa et al. 2003). ES cells in which *nanog* is blocked lose their pluripotency—which clearly shows that *nanog* is a positive factor instructing cells to be pluripotent, i.e. to behave like an ES cell. Furthermore, ES cells which constitutively express *nanog* can no longer be differentiated, i.e. are forced to remain in their undifferentiated state (Mitsui, Tokuzawa et al. 2003).

We propose a procedure that combines epigenetic reprogramming of a somatic nucleus with forced expression of transcription factors characteristic of embryonic stem cells, to produce a pluripotent stem cell. As a result of this procedure, *nanog* and/or other, similar factors, would be expressed at high levels in somatic cells prior to nuclear transfer, to bias the somatic nucleus towards a pluripotent stem cell state. Such altered nuclei would then be epigenetically reprogrammed by transplantation into enucleated oocytes. Alternatively or concomitantly, the mRNA for these same factors could be introduced into the oocyte prior to nuclear transfer. This procedure could ensure that the epigenetic state of the resulting single cell would immediately be different from that of an embryo and like that of a pluripotent

stem cell: the somatic-cell nucleus would be formed into a pluripotent stem-cell nucleus and never pass through an embryonic stage. Therefore, unlike some other proposed methods of ANT, this method would achieve its objective not by a gene deletion that precludes embryonic organization in the cell produced, but rather by a positive transformation that generates, *ab initio*, a cell with the distinctive molecular characteristics and developmental behavior of a pluripotent cell, not a totipotent embryo. This should allow us to produce a pluripotent stem cell line with controlled genetic characteristics.

ENDORSERS

Institutional affiliations are provided for purposes of identification only and do not necessarily represent the views of organizations with which endorsers are affiliated. Endorsers who are not themselves specialists in biomedical science do not put themselves forward as experts in that field. Their endorsement of the proposal pertains to the ethics of ANT-OAR, assuming its technical feasibility.

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RESEARCHERS OFFER PROOF-OF-CONCEPT FOR ALTERED NUCLEAR TRANSFER

CAMBRIDGE, MA, Oct. 17, 2005.—Scientists at Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research have successfully demonstrated that a theoretical—and controversial—technique for generating embryonic stem cells is indeed possible, at least in mice.

The theory, called altered nuclear transfer (ANT), proposes that researchers first create genetically altered embryos that are unable to implant in a uterus, and then extract stem cells from these embryos. Because the embryos cannot implant, they are by definition not "potential" human lives. Some suggest that this would quell the protests of critics who claim that embryonic stem cell research necessitates the destruction of human life. Scientists and ethicists have debated the merits of this approach, but so far it has not been achieved.

"The purpose of our study was to provide a scientific basis for the ethical debate," says Whitehead Member Rudolf Jaenisch, lead author on the paper that will be published in the October 16 online edition of the journal

Nature. "Our work is the first proof-of-principle study to show that altered nuclear transfer not only works but is extremely efficient."

First proposed by William Hurlbut, Stanford University professor and member of the President's Council on Bioethics, ANT has been described as an ethical alternative to somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), also known as therapeutic cloning.

For SCNT, a donor nucleus, for example one taken from a skin cell, is implanted into a donor egg cell from which the nucleus had been removed. This egg cell is then tricked into thinking it has been fertilized. That causes it to grow into a blastocyst—a mass of about 100 cells—from which stem cells are removed. These embryonic stem cells can divide and replicate themselves indefinitely, and they can also form any type of tissue in the human body. However, to cull these stem cells, the blastocyst must be destroyed, which some critics insist is tantamount to destroying a human life.

The procedure theorized by Hurlbut is similar to SCNT, but with one crucial twist: Before the donor nucleus is transferred into the egg cell, its DNA is altered so that the resulting blastocyst has no chance of ever becoming a viable embryo. As a result, a "potential human being" is not destroyed once stem cells have been extracted.

Jaenisch—a firm supporter of all forms of human embryonic stem cell research—has shown that technical concerns about this approach can be overcome.

Jaenisch and Alexander Meissner, a graduate student in his lab, focused on a gene called *Cdx2*, which enables an embryo to grow a placenta. In order to create a blastocyst that cannot implant in a uterus, the researchers disabled *Cdx2* in mouse cells.

They accomplished this with a technique called RNA interference, or RNAi. Here, short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecules are designed to target an individual gene and disrupt its ability to produce protein. In effect, the gene is shut off. Jaenisch and Meissner designed a particular form of siRNA that shut off this gene in the donor nucleus and then incorporated itself into all the cells comprising the blastocyst. As a result, all of the resulting mouse blastocysts were incapable of implantation.

However, once the stem cells had been extracted from the blastocysts, *Cdx2* was still disabled in each of these new cells, something that needed to be repaired in order for these cells to be useful. To correct this, Meissner deleted the siRNA molecule by transferring a plasmid into each cell. (A plasmid is a unit of DNA that can replicate in a cell apart from the nucleus. Plasmids are usually found in bacteria, and they are a staple for recombinant DNA techniques.) The stem cells resulting from this procedure proved to be just as robust and versatile as stem cells procured in the more traditional fashion.

"The success of this procedure in no way precludes the need to pursue all forms of human embryonic stem cell research," says Jaenisch, who is also a professor of biology at MIT. "Human embryonic stem cells are extraordinarily complicated. If we are ever to realize their therapeutic potential, we must use all known tools and techniques in order to explore the mechanisms that give these cells such startling characteristics."

ANT, Jaenisch emphasizes, is a modification, but not an alternative, to nuclear transfer, since the approach requires additional manipulations of the donor cells. He hopes that this modification may help resolve some of the issues surrounding work with embryonic stem cells and allow federal funding.

This research was supported by the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute.

BLUE DOG COALITION AND THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about our budget, to talk about our debt, to talk about our deficit.

As a member of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 37 fiscally conservative Democrats, we are here as a group to hold our government accountable for the reckless spending, the record deficits, and the lack of fiscal discipline that we see in our Nation's government these days.

A good example of that, Mr. Speaker, can be found in my district, in fact, in my hometown where I grew up and finished high school, Hope, Arkansas. As you may know, we had the most costly natural disaster ever in our Nation's history hit us about 6 months ago, that of course being Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you that my heart goes out for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, many who remain homeless today. I am real proud of the people of my congressional district, the 4th District of Arkansas, who opened up their arms and their homes and their communities. Some people referred to them as evacuees. We called them our neighbors, our neighbors from Louisiana and Mississippi who came to Arkansas to seek refuge.

A few weeks, perhaps a couple of months, after Hurricane Katrina, FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, showed up at city hall in Hope, Arkansas, and explained that they were aware that Hope owned an old World War II airport, airfield and accompanying pasture, and they understood that many of those runways were now inactive. And they proceeded to explain how they were buying some 20,000 manufactured homes, and they wanted to use the old World War II airport, the inactive runways at the airport there in Hope, Arkansas, as what they called a FEMA staging area, and that manufactured homes and they would be coming and they would be going, going to the people who lost their homes and everything they owned in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they did come. Here is an aerial photo of what has come to Hope, Arkansas. According to FEMA's most recent count, 10,777 manufactured homes have come to this so-called FEMA staging area in my hometown where I grew up, Hope, Arkansas. I now live some 16 miles from there in Prescott.

I have been there, Mr. Speaker. I have seen these 10,777 manufactured homes. They came. But not a single one left, not one. Not one home left for the people they were intended for. To put it another way, it is \$431 million worth of manufactured homes sitting in a cow pasture in Hope, Arkansas.

Now, originally what FEMA had intended to do was use this as a staging area and homes would be coming and homes would be going. They would have room for them on these inactive runways. But today only 25 percent of them sit on these inactive runways. As you can see, many of them, in fact 75 percent of them, are sitting in cow pastures around the airport.

If you were to stack these manufactured homes, a few of them are 80 feet long, most of them are 60 feet, if you were to stack them end to end, they would stretch 172 miles. They would stretch from the Texas-Arkansas border at the Red River all of the way to the Arkansas-Mississippi border at the Mississippi River.

These manufactured homes, every single one of them, are fully furnished, beds, mattresses, box springs, dining room, sofa, end tables, coffee tables, fully furnished. Yet at the same time, FEMA has announced that they are planning on March 1 to evict, or in early March, they plan to evict some 12,000 people from hotel rooms, and yet FEMA is sitting, sitting on 10,777 brand-new, fully furnished manufactured homes. They are just sitting on them at the Hope airport in Hope, Arkansas, some 450 miles from the eye of the storm.

Stanley McKenzie is from the New Orleans area. I have been talking with Stanley. Stanley is one of the victims of Hurricane Katrina who, some 6 months after the storm, remains in a hotel room in Monticello, Arkansas. Stanley and I talked this evening. Stanley explained to me that he did not want to be in a hotel room. He wanted to be in a manufactured home and has a location in Monticello to put one of these manufactured homes which are being stored about 2 hours west of Monticello.

And yet FEMA says he cannot have one. FEMA says he cannot borrow one for the next 18 months, as the program calls for.

They do not give these things away. They let people use them for up to 18 months, which is a whole other issue; that being, FEMA says the 18 months start from the date of the Federal declaration, not the date that the people actually receive the home. So every one of those 10,777 homes have an expiration date on them. The date does not begin, the 18-month window for people to live in them while they try to sort through their life and find a place to live after losing everything they own in Hurricane Katrina, does not start from the time they receive a home, it starts from the time of the Federal declaration.

So each day those homes sit at the airport and at the pasture in Hope is a day that no one can ever live in them. So I am calling on FEMA to revise their policy for the 18 months to begin at the time in which people are able to actually obtain one of these homes.

Now, what they tell Stanley is, he cannot have one, even though he has

got a place to put it, because he has got a place to put it in Arkansas, that he would have to move back to Louisiana in order to be able to use one of these manufactured homes for 18 months. And they say that they will not put them in Louisiana because FEMA refuses to put these manufactured homes in a flood zone.

Well, you know, I have got news for FEMA. Everybody that lost their home and everything they own, there is a reason for it. They lived in a flood zone. And so they are saying, if you want to get a manufactured home, FEMA says we will let you use one for up to 18 months, but you have got to provide land. And people who own land own land in what? A flood zone.

And FEMA refuses to place these temporarily in a flood zone for 18 months, and yet they have amassed 10,777 of them just sitting in a pasture in Hope, an area that is prone and will probably be under a tornado warning about once every 10 days for the next 3 months.

It is time for FEMA to get their act together. And they are now saying that they are going to move some of these, some 300 to 400 as I understand will be moved from Hope, some 450 miles from the eye of the storm, to Louisiana. That is good. But they also announced they are getting ready to move another 2,200 homes into Hope on top of the 10,777 we already have.

I am asking FEMA to move all 10,777 of those homes out of Hope and to the people who need them, people who lost everything they owned in Louisiana and Mississippi as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

The last response I got from FEMA was, the travel trailers work great. They put out 72,000 travel trailers and are getting ready to put out 10,000 more. They have purchased another 10,000 travel trailers.

If that is not enough, they are now accepting bids. They are getting ready to spend between \$6 and \$8 million laying gravel, on up to 290 acres at the airport in this cow pasture at Hope, Arkansas. There have been reports that these manufactured homes are damaged, that they are sinking. Not yet, but it is true that they are literally sitting in a pasture, or at least 75 percent of them are sitting in a pasture.

And that is what they look like. You can see the fence, the cow pasture. They are just sitting there in a pasture, some 10,777 manufactured homes sitting in a pasture, when we have got 12,000 families about to be evicted from hotel rooms all across this country by FEMA.

It is time for FEMA to get its act together. And my response and my plea to FEMA is, you know, do not spend \$6 or \$8 million laying gravel in a cow pasture. Let us get these manufactured homes to the people who need them, to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Now, I raise this issue because as a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, we have a 12-point

plan for budget reform. One of those plans is to require agencies to put their fiscal house in order.

□ 2145

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time for FEMA to put their fiscal house in order. There is a lot of talk about the President's budget. As you may know, Mr. Speaker, the President has submitted to Congress a \$2.8 trillion budget. This budget provides us with the largest budget deficit ever in our Nation's history for the 6th year in a row. \$423 billion in red ink; \$423 billion in deficit spending. Compare that to fiscal year 2006 when the budget deficit was \$318 billion.

The current national debt today, just a few moments ago, was \$8,251,355,000,000. For every man, woman, and child in America, including those who have been born since I got up here this evening, each person's share of the national debt is \$27,674.

With each passing year this President and this administration and this Republican Congress have given us the largest budget deficit ever in our Nation's history.

It is hard to believe now, but in 1998 through 2001, President Clinton gave this Nation its first balanced budget in about 40 years. In 2001, we had a surplus and every year since we have had a deficit, not only a deficit but the largest deficit ever in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, the total national debt from 1789 to 2000 was \$5.63 trillion. But by 2010 the total national debt will have increased to \$10.98 trillion. This is a doubling of the 2011 year debt in just 10 years.

Interest payments, this administration, this Congress is borrowing nearly \$1 billion every single day; \$260 million every day going into Iraq; \$33 million every day is going to Afghanistan. Other money that we are borrowing is going to pay for tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year. But if that is not enough that we are borrowing some \$1 billion a day, we are also spending about a half a billion dollars a day simply paying interest on the national debt. That is what we call the debt tax, D-E-B-T; and it is one tax that cannot go away until we get our Nation's fiscal house in order.

A half a billion dollars a day going to pay interest on the national debt. Give me 3 days' interest on the national debt and I can build I-49 through Arkansas. Give me another 3 days' interest and I can build I-69 through Arkansas. I could build 200 brand-new elementary schools every day in America just with the interest that we are paying on the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, if that is not enough, if that is not enough, this President, this administration, this Republican Congress in 5 short years has borrowed more money from foreign central banks and foreign investors than the previous 42 Presidents combined.

At this time I would like to recognize the co-chair of the Blue Dog Coalition,

Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA of California, who just happened to have been on the trip with me to Hope, Arkansas, to see those 10,707 manufactured homes just sitting in that cow pasture and 450 miles from the people that really need them in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Mr. CARDOZA. Thank you very much for recognizing me, Congressman Ross. It is truly an honor to be your friend and to have traveled with you to your district recently. It was a shame that we had to witness what we did when we witnessed those trailers sitting there, a government expenditure of nearly half a billion dollars with no person in America being benefited by that. It was really an outrage.

I am so pleased that I serve with you as a member of the Blue Dog Coalition. I am very pleased I am one of the Blue Dog co-chairs.

The Blue Dogs are a group of 37 conservative Democrats who are committed to fiscal responsibility and reforming the broken budget process in Washington. Our top priority is fixing the gross mismanagement of our Nation's finances. As moderates and fiscal hawks, the Blue Dogs have tried to reach across the aisle and engage in a real debate for fiscal responsibility.

The 2006 budget is something of a sham. We need to return to honesty and accountability in this budget. I am deeply concerned with the continued deficit spending, the complete disregard for fiscally responsible policies and a fundamentally dishonest budget process.

The President proposed, as you said, Mr. Ross, a \$2.7 trillion budget which will decrease domestic spending a bit, yet leave massive \$355 billion deficits. This \$355 billion is not the whole story, though.

The President's figures deliberately leave out the cost of our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan and the potential future cost of rebuilding this gulf region that we have talked about tonight that is in so dire need of our work. It also leaves out a growing problem for Americans and that is the alternative minimum tax. All these costs are going to drive up the deficit even further.

The President's budget is a nice break from reality TV, but it is a harsh reality for our Nation; and it does nothing to make the Federal Government more accountable to taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Ross, I just want to thank you again for your leadership and taking us down there and for having the gumption to bring camera crews down there and expose this national tragedy of these trailers in your district. I just hope that FEMA will listen to our pleas from that day when we talked about what needed to be done, what should be done. I applaud your efforts in this area and thank you for being such a worthy advocate for our Nation's fiscal policies.

Mr. ROSS. I appreciate the gentleman from California for his leadership as co-chair of the Blue Dog Coalition for joining us this evening for this

discussion of the budget, the debt, and the deficit. I appreciate your traveling to my district and witnessing something that is absolutely reprehensible. To have 10,777 brand-new manufactured homes, fully furnished, sitting in a cow pasture in Hope, Arkansas, when FEMA is getting ready to evict 12,000 people from hotel rooms in this country and their only response is, well, we are not going to put them in flood zones and everybody that needs them lives in a flood zone so we will spend 6 to \$8 million putting gravel on the cow pasture so we can store them for a future natural disaster.

That is the craziest thing I have ever heard of, and that is the kind of example of how we must require agencies to put their fiscal house in order and to get their act together. That is part of the 12-point plan for meaningful budget reform that is being offered up by the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition.

I recognize the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), a fellow Blue Dog, my friend.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you so much, Mr. ROSS. It is always a pleasure to come and be a party to our efforts here on behalf of the Blue Dog Coalition as we work very hard to try to bring some reason and sanity to this whole issue of our budget, our obligations, our responsibilities to the people of this country, and our allies and partners around the world.

I have just returned from Iraq and Afghanistan and Pakistan on an extraordinary trip. And I went firsthand so that I could see exactly what it was like on the ground, where I could talk to our soldiers, where I could be there with them, where I could also talk to the generals and see what was going on.

As I got there, it was very interesting for me to have one extraordinary experience. We went into Camp Victory, and I ate dinner with our soldiers. And this soldier grabbed me and hugged me so tight. It is a moment I will never forget as long as I live. As he was hugging me, we both were in tears and he said to me, Congressman SCOTT, when I am hugging you, it is like hugging a piece of home.

I can tell you I will never forget that.

Mr. ROSS, do you know what crosses my mind as we look at that situation with the debt? It is that that soldier that hugged me, those soldiers that are going out and giving their lives every day on the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq, their salaries are being paid for by borrowed money from Communist China, from Japan, from foreign countries. As a matter of fact, 90 percent of every dime that we are spending in this country today for our government to carry on its business is being borrowed from foreign countries.

Mr. ROSS. If the gentleman would yield, you make a very valid point. I have a chart here to demonstrate the fact that I mentioned earlier, this administration, this Republican Congress

has borrowed more money from foreign central banks, from foreign investors in the past 5 years than the previous 42 Presidents combined.

You want to talk about something that is critical to our national security, you let these foreign countries like China and Japan and OPEC, you wonder why gas prices are so high. If we let these countries continue to buy our debt, they are going to have a huge influence on our monetary policy. There you can see Japan, this is as of November 2005, it has gone up since then. Japan, \$682.8 billion of our loans that they own. China, \$249.8 billion; United Kingdom, \$223.2 billion; Caribbean, \$115.3 billion; Taiwan, \$71.3 billion; OPEC, \$67.8 billion; Korea, \$66.5 billion; Germany, \$65.7 billion; Canada \$53.8 billion.

To put it another way, if China decides, as my friend and founding member of the Blue Dog Coalition says so eloquently, we are in such a mess right now that if China which is loaning us money, if China decides to invade Taiwan, we will have to borrow even more money from China to defend Taiwan. That is the situation our Nation is in today as we continue to borrow about half the debt, which is running about a billion a day which means we are borrowing about a half a billion dollars a day from foreign central banks and from foreign investors to fund tax cuts in this country for those who earn over \$400,000 a year.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. And when you mention those tax cuts, the other terrible stab at the American people is that to make these tax cuts permanent means to borrow more money from these countries on top of what we are borrowing. And to offset those tax cuts in the Federal budget, the President and the Republican administration is advocating cutting the very programs that the people of America need and are hurting for.

You mention Katrina in your district. I am from Georgia. We are the third largest recipient of evacuees from this terrible, terrible, terrible tragedy. But the fact of the matter is that we are not responding to the needs of the American people when we look at this budget and the cuts: \$19 billion cuts to student loan programs; over \$200 million just from the first phase to child care programs, for the seniors. On top of that, the cuts that hurt the most to me at a time of war is the cut to our veterans to offset for the tax cuts.

The point that I think we want to bring home to the American people tonight is that we have a terrible situation that is ratcheting at the foundations of our country and that is a lack of financial security and a lack of financial responsibility. The architect of our financial system was none other than Alexander Hamilton, and Alexander Hamilton it was who laid out the credit system, laid out the debtor system. He said, woe it will be to us in the future if we become dependent on foreign sources to finance our government. He was adamant about that.

□ 2200

Here we are in the 21st century, rocking and reeling from this unfortunate situation we find ourselves in of borrowing this exorbitant amount of money from foreign governments.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Georgia and welcome him to stay and join us in a conversation about the budget and the debt and the deficit as the evening goes on.

As I mentioned earlier, the Blue Dog Coalition is a group of 37 fiscally conservative Democrats. What we are all about is trying to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government.

For those who have questions or comments for the Blue Dog Coalition, we are here every Tuesday night. It is not always the same time, but every Tuesday night, we are here. I am here with different members of the Blue Dog Coalition. If you have got a question or a comment for us relating to the budget, the debt, the deficit or my manufactured homes stacked up in a cow pasture in Hope, Arkansas, you can e-mail us at bluedog@mail.house.gov.

At this time, it is with great pleasure that I recognize a new Member of Congress, a real leader in Congress, a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, someone who came to Congress and said our budget, our debt, our deficit is out of control; I want to help restore some common sense and fiscal discipline. She is someone that has recently become an outspoken advocate for restoring common sense to our government, a new member of our fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, Congresswoman MELISSA BEAN from Illinois.

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) so much for recognizing me and letting me join my colleagues on the important issue of the rampant fiscal irresponsibility in this Congress.

When I came to Congress, I came to bring what I thought was a real-world business perspective to government because, in the business world, I spent over 20 years in the high-tech industry, but it certainly was not unique. In that industry, accountability is more than just a word. Business leaders expect to be held accountable to their shareholders, their customers, their employees and to their communities. But in this Congress, accountability is just a catch phrase, usually directed elsewhere. Demands to personal responsibility or corporate accountability abound, but rarely congressional accountability or fiscal responsibility.

Instead of sticking to the motto, "If it is worth doing, it is worth paying for," this administration and this Congress has turned the largest budget surplus in history into the largest deficit in history, with a reckless borrow-and-spend profligacy.

For the last 4 years, our Federal Government has produced the four biggest deficits in history, and the estimated 2006 deficit of \$423 billion is projected

to be the largest of all. As our colleague, DENNIS CARDOZA, just mentioned, we are even leaving out some of the facts.

It would be a considerably bigger deficit if we considered an AMT fix, which is one that is important and will affect the constituents in my district who do not want to pay the higher taxes without that fix. It is also not including the realistic costs for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The American people expect more from Congress. They expect fiscal responsibility and common sense. They expect us to return to the pay-as-you-go budget rules that we had enacted in the past that helped us establish a surplus, however briefly. It is a simple concept with a proven track record.

The budget enforcement rules of the 1990s were an important part of getting the budget back into balance. It was done on a bipartisan basis. Those pay-as-you-go rules were tested and they worked. We are now in a one-party system, and we have thrown them out.

Accountability in government should be more than a catch phrase, particularly when the national debt is now at \$8.2 trillion, which, by the way, computes to roughly \$27,000 of national debt per American.

I spoke to some seventh graders in my district the other day, and they were astounded to find that each of them, their personal share of our national debt is \$27,000. They were ready for us to do something about it. We need to do something about it and let them know that the buck stops here.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for joining our discussion and debate this evening.

As we look toward the fiscal year 2007 budget that the President recently submitted to Congress, and this is what we are referring to here, the "Fiscal Year 2007 Budget of the United States Government," I cannot help but think about the fact that over the last 4 years this administration has produced the four largest deficits ever in our Nation's history.

The 2006 deficit of \$423 billion is projected to be the largest of all, \$105 billion larger than the 2005 deficit. The 2006 deficit, without the Social Security surplus, is over \$600 billion. They always like to count the Social Security trust fund to make it look like the deficit is really less than it really is. No wonder that I could not get a vote or a hearing on the first bill I filed as a Member of Congress, a bill to tell the politicians in Washington to keep their hands off the Social Security trust fund.

When this administration took office, it inherited a projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion. This surplus has become a \$3.3 trillion deficit, which now brings this to a total of \$8.2 trillion in deficit, an embarrassing reversal of some \$8.9 trillion. If that is not enough, the fiscal year 2007 proposed budget includes cuts to education, Medicare, Medicaid, transportation, justice, law enforce-

ment, housing, urban development, health and human services, while increasing fees paid by veterans and Medicare premiums paid by seniors.

The President said in his State of the Union that he was committed to providing affordable health care for Americans. However, this budget includes increases in Medicare premiums, cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, and a misguided plan for health savings accounts that will shift more of the cost of health care onto beneficiaries.

The fiscal year 2007 budget includes tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year, but it fails to include a repair to the alternative minimum tax, which affects way too many middle-income people year after year after year after year, and should be addressed by this Congress.

In fact, the only good news I can find in the budget is, according to the President's budget, we will have won the peace and brought the troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan by October 1. What I mean by that is, the President, according to his budget, has not provided for a single dime in funding for our operations in Afghanistan or Iraq beginning October 1, which obviously means one of two things: that he has provided us with a phony budget, one that is not meaningful; or that he really believes that we are going to actually have brought all the men and women in uniform home and completed our mission and won the battle and created peace and democracies in those regions in Afghanistan and Iraq between now and October 1.

The Blue Dog Coalition used to offer up a budget every year. It is difficult for us to do that now because we refuse to provide a budget that is not meaningful; and it also does not make sense for us to provide a budget that compares apples with oranges. If this administration and this President would give us a meaningful budget, one that accounts for the cost of Iraq and Afghanistan, one that addresses Medicare and all the other pressing issues in this Nation, then we could do the same.

But what we believe must happen as fiscally conservative Democrats, we are tired of all the partisan bickering that goes on in this place. It does not matter if it is a Democratic idea or a Republican idea. I want it to be a common-sense idea, and I ask myself does it make sense for the people that send me here to be their voice and to represent them.

What we believe must happen, before either party can offer up a meaningful budget, is, we have got to have budget reform, and that is what the Blue Dogs are offering up, 12 points to budget reform. We have discussed them in the past. If time permits, I will discuss them even more here this evening, but I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Absolutely, and just responding to your very eloquent description of the status quo, of the situation and the landscape that

the American people are faced with today with a budget that is squarely not responsive nor responsible to the needs of the American people, with an administration that, quite frankly, on so many important issues, has demonstrated that they are completely out to lunch and out of touch.

The point is that the American people deserve better. There is a day of reckoning coming, and I assure you that that reckoning is coming this year, in the year 2006. I think this is going to be one of the most important elections that we have had in a long, long time, because all of the facts that you have just pointed out, in terms of FEMA, in terms of what is happening in the Middle East and here lately in terms of those who were asleep at the switch when the deal was cut, in terms of the port security, all show a considerable lack of judgment and a lack of responsibility to the American people.

That has been a characteristic within this administration, especially in the area dealing with one of the most precious responsibilities we have, which is determining and being responsible for how we spend the taxpayers' money. For this administration in the last 5 years to have squandered a surplus, the facts are there. They are plain as one can see.

When the Clinton administration left office, there was a surplus of billions and billions of dollars, and now in this last year the deficit has been shot up over \$4 trillion. There is a reckoning for that, and I am here to tell you that as a Member of Congress, the American people are looking for Members of Congress to stand up for them and to do what it is we need to do, that we were elected to do. It is Congress that is charged with the responsibility of oversight. It is Congress whose decision it is, by the Constitution, to determine how the tax dollars are spent. That is our responsibility.

I am here to tell you that collectively, as a body, we have not done our job. We need to correct that, and under the leadership of the Blue Dogs, we are asserting that leadership, to say bring it home to us.

We have got the plan, pay-as-you-go. Parents, families, all across this country, they cannot go out here. We tell them all the time, be responsible. Mom and dads that are sitting at the kitchen table tonight scratching their heads, how are we going to pay this without money, they do not have the luxury of putting out a debt ceiling. They do not have the luxury of going and borrowing unlimited amounts from foreign governments for our most basic services.

When you combine that with the trade deficit and you combine that with our willingness to turn our security for our ports over to foreign countries, and especially countries with Arab and Islamic roots and connections, when we are in a terrorist war with Islamic and Arabic countries, let it be said and let it be plain, we do not

wish to discriminate against anybody because you are Arab or Islamic.

But does it make good judgment to turn our security over to a country that has had a record of financial transactions supporting terrorists or a country where two of the terrorists came from that attacked this country? That is sort of like after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, turning over the security of Pearl Harbor to the Japanese.

The only reason I am mentioning that is to show that the same mind-set that allowed this to happen for our ports, the same mind-set that allowed the FEMA to happen, to have those trailers setting up unused in Hope, Arkansas, at Fort Gillem in Georgia, failure after failure of judgment, it is the same mind-set that has gotten us into this record deficit and debt. There is a reckoning.

America's looking for leadership on this, and that leadership must come from us, Blue Dogs, and the Democratic Party.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia.

I might mention part of our 12-point plan for meaningful budget reform, and we are still waiting for the first Republican Member of Congress to sign on to our bills that address these issues, but point number one is real simple: Require a balanced budget.

I spent 10 years in the State Senate. Forty-nine States in this Nation require a balanced budget.

□ 2215

I know in our home in Prescott, Arkansas, my family and I, we sit around the kitchen table and work out our family budget. My wife and I own a family pharmacy and home medical equipment business in our hometown, and our banker requires us to have a balanced budget. I don't believe it is asking too much for our Nation and its leaders here in Congress to do what 49 States do, what most companies and businesses, large and small, in America do, and what most families sitting around the kitchen table struggle to do but must do and do, and that is have a balanced budget. That would address a lot of our problems.

Another is don't let Congress buy on credit. The gentleman from Georgia mentioned earlier PAYGO. That is Pay As You Go. If you want to create a new program that is going to cost money, you have to show us at the same time where you are going to cut spending somewhere else. If you are going to cut taxes, you have to show us in times when we don't have a surplus where you are going to cut programs to pay for those tax cuts. It is called Pay As You Go.

And you can see here we did not have PAYGO rules in place in this body, in this United States House of Representatives Chamber; those rules were not in place during the Reagan years. You see the red. We had deficits ranging from \$128 billion in 1992. They hit \$221 billion in fiscal year 1986. It was \$290 billion

under former President Bush in fiscal year 1992. And then under President Clinton we started seeing the debt, the deficit, come down. Finally, in fiscal year 1998, we had the first balanced budget in about 40 years, \$69 billion in the black. In 1999, \$125 billion in the black. The year 2000, \$236 billion in the black. Fiscal year 2001, \$128.2 billion in the black.

Then, under this Republican-led Congress, this administration, \$157.8 billion in the red, \$377.6 billion in the red, \$412.1 billion in the red, \$319 billion in the red, \$323 billion in the red; and, of course, for fiscal year 2007, we all know that unfortunately the deficit is projected to be \$423 billion. And that is not counting what it would be if they counted the Social Security trust fund. If they were to count the Social Security trust fund, it would be well in excess, well in excess of \$600 billion.

It is time to restore some fiscal discipline to our Nation's government. We have a 12-point plan that will accomplish that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Ms. BEAN. I thank my colleague, Mr. Speaker. It is interesting, I mentioned earlier that I spent some time with some seventh graders in my district; and when we are with these young students, as my colleague mentioned, they are looking to us to demonstrate leadership and to also act like the adults they would expect us to act like and demonstrate some fiscal sense.

When I talked to them about the \$27,674 of the national debt that they each share, they were saying, well, then, how come you guys keep spending more than you have? And I said, because we are not adhering to the rules we once did before that forced us to do that, that forced us to make tough decisions. And we talked about how in their family budgets they have to make those decisions. Sometimes going to the movies fits in the budget and sometimes it doesn't. But Mom and Dad try to make sure that they are not spending more than they have personally so as to avoid getting into debt. They understood what that meant in their families, and they were, frankly, pretty shocked.

But it is not just the kids that are worried. I talk to businesses in my district, and they are very concerned. They understand that deficits matter. Not everybody understands it, but business people understand that access to capital fuels their growth; and that while at this moment interest rates have been kept down, that can't last forever while we become even more dependent on foreign capital to float our spending habits. So business people have concerns.

My colleague also mentioned the debt tax, and I think that is an important issue that most people don't appreciate. I have one chart here, and I don't know if my colleague has this up there, but I don't think people realize that net interest is projected to be at

such a higher rate than education spending, than homeland security spending, and than veterans benefits in the President's 2007 budget. And when they realize those are the priorities that we are making and those are the decisions we are making, and as more people understand this, they are going to become even more frustrated.

Mr. ROSS. Very good points, and I thank the gentlewoman for sharing that with us.

In this new budget the President has given us, domestic non-homeland discretionary spending is cut by \$5.3 billion below the 2006 level and \$16.8 billion below the level needed to maintain the purchasing power at the 2006 level.

Over 5 years this budget includes reductions or eliminations in 141 Federal programs, 91 of which are eliminated in their entirety, and 42 programs in the Department of Education alone. That is 42 programs within the Department of Education that are eliminated under the President's budget for fiscal year 2007.

The budget includes \$77 billion in gross mandatory spending cuts over 5 years through a combination of service reductions and fee increases, as we talked about, increasing deductibles and copayments and premiums for our Medicare beneficiaries, and increasing prescription drug copayments and enrollment fees for America's veterans. For America's veterans.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is time for this Nation to keep its promises to our veterans, especially at a time when we are creating a new generation of veterans that are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, veterans that we should embrace and support and provide them the health care that they deserve and that they were promised when they signed up to serve and protect and defend our Nation.

I mentioned Medicare. The President's budget calls for cuts to Medicare to the tune of \$36 billion over 5 years and \$105 billion over 10 years. Meanwhile, Medicare part D, as we all know, is failing our seniors and has serious flaws in the system that must be ironed out. And Medicaid, in addition to last year's budget reconciliation package that just passed this body, budget cuts to Medicaid include \$17 billion more over 5 years and \$42 billion over 10 years. That is in the President's budget for fiscal year 2007.

In my home State of Arkansas, half of the children are on Medicaid. Eight out of 10 seniors in a nursing home are on Medicaid. One in five people in my home State of Arkansas, at some point during the past 12 months, have been on Medicaid. Medicare and Medicaid are the very programs we should be funding, not cutting.

And I submit to folks that if you think Medicaid is something that provides health insurance for folks on welfare and that it will never apply to you, think again. If you have a quarter million dollars in the bank the day you retire, and most people where I come

from don't, and if you go in the nursing home the day you retire, not 10, 20, or 30 years later, in less than 8 years you are on Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor, the disabled, and the elderly. That is wrong.

It is wrong to cut taxes for those earning over \$400,000 a year when you have to cut Medicaid, whereas eight out of 10 seniors in my State are on Medicaid if they are in a nursing home. It is wrong to cut health care for the poor, the disabled, and the elderly to pay for tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year.

And, look, back in times of surplus, when we had a surplus before 9/11, before Iraq, and before Afghanistan, I voted for the largest tax cut in over 20 years. We had a surplus. We really were giving people some of their money back. But we no longer have a surplus. We have had 9/11, we have had Iraq, and we have had Afghanistan. It may make for good politics, but it makes for horrible fiscal policy to borrow money from China to give those earning over \$400,000 a year a tax cut and leave our children with the bill.

No Child Left Behind is funded at \$15.4 billion below the authorized level. And you know how things work in this town. If it were a Democratic idea, I would understand the President cutting it; but this is his plan. He came to Washington on this idea of No Child Left Behind and reforming education. It is his plan. He told us what it would cost, and now he has even cut his own program by \$15.4 billion below the authorized level.

Schoolteachers, parents, students, every weekend when I'm home, talk to me about how No Child Left Behind has failed them and failed their school. It is time for this Congress to properly and adequately fund education. Because I can tell you, as we continue to lose these muscle jobs to places like Mexico and China, it is the brain jobs, the jobs that are going to require our children to be competitive, that are the jobs of the future in this Nation, and we've got to better prepare our children for them.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. What a great challenge and what a great opportunity we have at this time in history in this country to move us forward to the next phase, to a higher calling, to a more significant meaning of the greatness of this country, to build on that foundation that we have. But before we can do that, I agree with my colleague, we have got to balance our books.

We cannot go on this way, running our government and running our Nation on borrowed money from these foreign governments. That has to stop, especially at a point when we are in the shape that we are in in the rest of the world. Double that with our trade deficit. Double that with our war on terror. Double that with our fight for petroleum and energy costs, which we are so dependent on foreign countries for as well.

Now, you mentioned a couple of points that I think the American people need to perhaps home in on. One you mentioned was the veterans. It is so important for us to point out that these budget cuts that the President is offering to offset tax cuts, which he is going to have to borrow most of the money for, are not offset by these budget cuts. But the one that hurts me so much is the veterans. You pointed it out.

Another issue that the administration is standing and blocking the door of is this: I was over in Iraq and Afghanistan, hugging the soldiers, looking at them facing death every day, sent in harm's way. If those soldiers get hurt, if they get a wound, shrapnel, a bullet and they get disability and then they have to resign from the Army and retire, do you know that they have to go and make a choice between whether they get their retirement pay or their disability? That is wrong. That is shameful.

Our veterans should not have to choose. We should pass this concurrent receipts bill. And I might add that we have both Democrats and Republicans, over 300 signatures. Why hasn't that bill passed?

Mr. ROSS. If the gentleman will yield. Let me make sure I understand this correctly. If you serve your country and earn a pension, but you also are injured while you are serving your country, then you have to choose one or the other? You cannot receive both?

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. That is what it is right now, yes.

Mr. ROSS. So the gentleman is telling me that over 300 Members of this body have signed onto legislation to fix that?

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Yes, both Democrats and Republicans.

Mr. ROSS. And it only takes 218 to pass a bill?

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSS. And yet the Republican leadership fails to bring the bill to the floor for a vote?

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Absolutely. And the President of this country has not lifted a finger to move it. If they did, it would move. At a time when we are depending so strongly on these veterans, on our military.

And let me just add, these are men and women who have braved this opportunity by volunteering. And these are men and women that we have to set a standard for in the future to get other young men and women to volunteer. Not only in terms of benefits such as this and putting their lives in harm's way, but our military is becoming so sophisticated, so technologically savvy. Our instruments, our equipment, our weapons systems require trained computer savvy, technically trained and equipped, skilled personnel that are in high commands elsewhere. So the least we have got to begin to pay close attention to is how we are treating our resources right here at home.

The other point that you mentioned that I want to bring attention to is the children. And my colleague just mentioned it about our children, those children that you talked with in school. And I know when you looked in the eyes of those children, I know you had to say, what a shame it is that this deficit, that this budget, that this bill is going to have to be paid for by them. Somebody has to pay this, and it is our children that have to pay it.

Ms. BEAN. It is so true. And essentially what they were saying and what we talked about is much like if I were to go get a credit card in my children's name and go out and spend money on things for myself and my husband but say to my kids, my daughters, when you are 18 and you get a job, you get to pay for what I have spent on the credit card. That is what we are doing with these future generations.

□ 2230

And kids understand the injustice of that. They expect better from us, absolutely. And they were wishing they were old enough to vote so they could do something about it.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. I will tell you one thing. I have just come back from my district and I have talked and had town hall meetings, and I have had opportunities to meet people at our churches, and people are in tune. They are tuned in to what is happening in this capital.

I am here to tell you they are very concerned about the port security situation. They are very concerned about this deficit. They are very concerned about the failure and inaction in Katrina. This is a whole region of this great country that has been devastated, and the response has been extremely wanting. And the American people are expecting us to respond to that.

Now, President Bush does not have to run again. He does not have to face the voters. But you do, Mr. ROSS, and I do, and you, Ms. BEAN. We have to do that. The Framers of the Constitution made it clear. That is one of the reasons why we in this House are, in my estimation, the most powerful body, because we have to go out every other year and reget our contract. That gives us an awesome power. That is why this Chamber is more directly in touch with the American people, because we have to go out there every other year.

Mr. ROSS. Every weekend.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Every year, but we are on the ballot every other year where they have to give their verdict.

And, finally, Mr. ROSS, you made the point concerning the deficit, the debt, the money we are borrowing from foreign countries. But I think it is important for the American people to understand that just the interest, just the interest that we are paying Japan and China and Germany and other countries in the Middle East, just the interest we are paying them is more than

what we are paying for our own homeland security. And that is a very unfortunate situation, but it drives home the point of the very dangerous position that we are in. Should any of these countries feel that they could get us, they can get us because of our lack of financial responsibility and fiscal security.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for joining us this evening, and I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for joining us.

As members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, we are 37 strong. There are 37 of us in this town that are committed to trying to get our fiscal house in order, to once again have a nation that knows how to live within its means.

If you have questions or comments that you want us to answer next Tuesday night, you can e-mail them to us at bluedog@mail.house.gov.

At the beginning of our hour, I pointed out that the debt as of today is \$8,251,355,000,000. That is \$8,251,355,000,000. Every man, woman, and child in America, their share of the national debt is \$27,674. And it continues to grow. It continues to grow. In fact, just in this last hour our Nation's debt has increased by \$41.666 million. So, obviously, you see when we started an hour ago it was \$8,251,355,000,000, and, unfortunately, it has increased to \$8.293 trillion. Just another example of how our Nation must get its fiscal house in order.

I think it is very appropriate that we spend a little bit of time changing these numbers and letting people see that in the hour that we have stood here talking about our Nation's debt and deficit and getting our fiscal house in order, we have seen the Nation's debt go up by \$41.666 million. The debt now in our Nation \$8,251,293,000,000.

AMERICAN HERITAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for half the time remaining until midnight, approximately 42 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come and chat with the House and to maybe set the record straight a little bit.

As a freshman Member of the House, we have 24, 25 freshmen on our side of the aisle, and over the past 13 months we have grown a little weary with what we see as the amount of misinformation and disinformation that we so oftentimes see brought by the other side, so we have developed what we call the Official Truth Squad. And so I am here to bring you some messages with some of my colleagues from the Official Truth Squad, which is an effort to try to embrace the American Dream, to embrace the American vision, and to present to the American people and our colleagues the story that Congress is

working in a positive manner, that we are optimistic about the Nation's future in spite of some things that you hear from some of our friends on the other side of the aisle.

When I go home and I talk to constituents, I oftentimes hear them say, What is going on up there? Why all the negativity? Why all the pessimism? Why all the misinformation that we appear to hear all the time? And I commiserate with them. So this Official Truth Squad is an attempt to try to bring some light to truth, to some of the information that we believe the American people ought to have in contrast to some of the things that you have heard, even here tonight.

I am pleased to hear the Blue Dogs present a proposal or two. They talk about being fiscally conservative. They talk about being fiscal hawks. But my recollection is a little bit to the contrary of that. There is a wonderful quote that I like from Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former United States Senator from New York, Democrat. And he was such a cogent individual. He was one of those individuals who worked for the truth regardless of where it led. And he had this wonderful quote. He said, "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion but not their own facts." Everyone is entitled to their own opinion but not their own facts. And I really think that that kind of crystallizes what we have heard in this Chamber over the past few minutes.

You have heard the other side talk about deficit spending and how we ought not be spending into the deficit, and they are right. They are right. But when they had an opportunity to decrease spending by nearly \$40 billion just a few short weeks ago, not a single one of them, not one of them, voted for it. A \$39.8 billion decrease in spending and not a single one voted in favor of it.

You heard them talk about the alternative minimum tax and how it is an unjust tax and it needs to go away, and they are right. They are right. A colleague of mine, Congressman ENGLISH, has a bill, H.R. 1186, that would repeal the alternative minimum tax. Not a single Democrat on that bill, not a single cosponsor from that side of the aisle.

You hear them talk about the need to balance the budget and not spend so much money, and they are right. They are absolutely right. But when the proposals are put on the table to do away with programs that are wasteful or do away with programs that have significant abuse, where are they? Nowhere to be found.

So you are entitled to your own opinions, but you are not entitled to your own facts. And to crystallize that a little more because the disinformation that we heard over and over about budgetary cuts really does a disservice to the debate, does a disservice to the discussion, does a disservice to the American people, because when you look at the numbers, when you look at the truth, that is not what is going on.

And this evening you have heard the other side talk about budgetary cuts in the area of defense spending and spending on veterans. So, at home, if I were sitting there listening, I would say, well, my goodness, they must have addressed the amount of money that was going to the military or decreased the amount of money going to veterans.

Mr. Speaker, is that not what you would think? That is what I would think if I heard that. But here we have the Defense Department appropriation, budgetary authority from Congress from the year 2000 projected through 2007. In 2000 it was \$287 billion. In 2001 it was \$303 billion. That does not sound like a cut to me. In 2002, \$328 billion. That is real money. That does not sound like a cut to me. In 2003, \$365 billion.

Remember, down here in 2000 we were at \$287 billion.

So these are the actual numbers. Fiscal year 2006, \$411 billion of budgetary authority for the Department of Defense. Mr. Speaker, that is not a cut. That is responsible spending on the part of the United States Congress. And I am proud of the support that we have given to our military. And I am proud of the support that we continue to give to veterans.

You have heard this evening that veterans' budgets were cut. Here are the numbers, the actual numbers, from 1984 through 2005, and I want to draw your attention to what has happened in the last 10 years. In 1994 discretionary spending for veterans: \$17.2 billion; 1995, \$17.6 billion; 2005, \$30.7 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what arithmetic they are using. I do not know where they went to school, but I do know that that is not a cut in anybody's book.

So when we get this kind of misinformation, this kind of disinformation, it does not contribute to the public debate. It is not honest. It is not truthful. So the Official Truth Squad is here to try to bring some truth to the situation.

This is veterans' medical care, and you heard it talked about this evening, how we have these incredible cuts in medical care for veterans. Mr. Speaker, here are the numbers: 1994, \$15.6 billion; 2005, \$29.9 billion. Mr. Speaker, that is not a cut. It is an appropriate, responsible move by Congress to take care of those who are protecting our freedoms.

So remember what Mr. Moynihan said, You are welcome to your own opinions but you are not welcome to your own facts.

So I would like to highlight this evening what is called the politics of division that seems to be practiced by so many here in Washington, and it is disheartening and it does a disservice to all of us. We are going to talk tonight in a positive way about America. We are going to talk in a positive way about our future. We are going to talk in a positive way about our Founding Fathers and about our history and about our heritage.

And just to identify the destruction of the politics of division that is so often practiced here, I have got a quote from Abraham Lincoln that I would like to share with you and it is kind of his philosophy on the social fabric. He said: "You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot encourage the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could do for themselves."

Mr. Speaker, the politics of division has no place in the public arena. It does a disservice to our Nation. It does a disservice to the debate. Frankly, it is an embarrassment for the individuals that practice it.

So I encourage all Members of Congress, Republican, Democrat, all of my colleagues, to go about our debates and the discussions that we have and the challenges that we face in this Nation in a positive and honest and truthful manner. Then we can get to the right solutions.

As I mentioned, the Official Truth Squad comes almost every evening since we began the first of the year and talks about some positive aspects of America, talks about the importance of honesty and truthfulness in the debate. And tonight we are going to concentrate on our heritage, our American heritage, our wonderful American heritage.

□ 2245

I have been joined by a number of colleagues tonight, and they are going to share a story or two about maybe the Founding Fathers, some heritage that we have. I hope that what that will do is inspire some of our colleagues to remember the principles that brought our Nation about and remember, remember, the ideals that we are bound to uphold.

With that, I am honored to yield to my good friend LOUIE GOHMERT from the great State of Texas. He is a judge by profession and is a member of the freshman class as well, and has just a wealth of knowledge about American history and our heritage. Congressman GOHMERT, please share a few words with us.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my good friend from Georgia, the eminent physician, healing not only bodies in the past, but coming in and healing with the good elixir of truth. We appreciate that tonight, Mr. Speaker, and we appreciate the opportunity to be here.

You are talking about truth, and you have the poster that says the Official Truth Squad. Something that has been neglected for far too long is the truth

about our history. You look back, there was a school I read not too long ago that was going to change their name away from George Washington, and I thought how tragic. They do not know history.

You go back, and above the Speaker's head up here, we see "In God We Trust." George Washington, there was a time when he was in desperate need, and he prayed to that God in whom we trust.

Going back to 1755, a young man in his early twenties, Washington was headed up toward Fort Duquesne with about 100 American soldiers and about 1,300 British soldiers. As they proceeded up through Pennsylvania, they had to go through a wooded area, a large wooded area, and there was a ravine that they marched through. There were 85 soldiers on horseback, those were the officers, and that included George Washington.

As they made their way through, the Indians and French were lying in wait, this was the French and Indian War, and here this young man with boldness, gallantry, was on horseback, he led his soldiers. When the ambush started, it was horrible. Bodies were flying everywhere, bullets taking them out.

After about 2 hours, there were over 700 who had died. There were 84 of the 85 officers that had been shot off their horses. Only one remained. That was George Washington. Finally, after a couple of hours, the remaining British and Americans retreated from the woods, and when they got a good distance away, they reformed and retreated, I believe it was back to Maryland.

There was a letter that Washington wrote back to his mother and brother accounting what happened. There are other accounts that seem to all tell the same story. But Washington wrote that when he took off his hat and shook his head, bullet fragments fell out of his hair, but there wasn't a scratch on him. He said when he took off his vest, there were bullet holes in his investigate, but not a scratch on him. As he wrote to his mother and brother, he said, "Truly God was with me," that God in whom we trust.

Fast forward 15 years later. Washington and a friend of his named Dr. Craig were going up through Pennsylvania. Washington was going to go by and show him this place where this horrible thing happened, where so many people died.

As they approached the woods, they were met by a group of Indians, and it turned out an old Indian chief was with them. They had a council fire, and during that time the chief disclosed that 15 years earlier, he too had been in that wood, and that he had heard Washington was coming to that area so he journeyed to meet him.

He said, "I gave the order to my braves to shoot at you, because we could see you coming from a distance and I knew if we shot you, that your men would flee in fear. We could just

tell the way you rode." He said, "I personally shot at you around 17 times. I traveled this distance to meet the man that God would not let die."

This was a man who was prepared for that. Through it all, through that horror of that event, you look back and see how that was worked together for good. He saw how the British reacted when they were under fire. He saw effective tactics. But, even more so, all those people saw him. They saw his gallantry, his bravery, his courage, his leadership. They knew this was a guy that they could trust, even in his early twenties.

So as we move toward the 1776 time, in the days when he would lead this country, a lot of people don't realize, but he was just the man for just such a time.

Mr. Speaker, I was talking to a group of youth from Grace Community School there in Tyler. Those kids know so much about our history. They know. But not every school teaches the history. I am proud to have a school like that in my city in Tyler where they know those kinds of things.

But after 1776, after the Declaration of Independence was signed, things looked so grim that the signers of the Declaration of Independence knew that if their troops failed, they were all dead people. Their families were dead, everything they owned would be taken, their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor, everything would be gone. Yet they put their trust in George Washington, along with the God that we trust.

On December 27, 1776, when things looked so bleak and they knew that shortly, just a matter of a week or so, the enlistment of these men would be up, they knew if they headed home as they were intending to do, all was lost. So they passed a resolution as a Continental Congress that basically gave Washington all the power that they had, power to pay money, to make orders, to tell people to do whatever. Then, interestingly, the letter that accompanied that resolution that they sent to Washington included this line. It said, "Happy it is for this country that the general of their forces could be safely entrusted with the most unlimited power, and neither personal security, liberty nor property be in the least degree endangered thereby."

Mr. Speaker, I know my good friend from Georgia feels the same way. I trust so many people, but I don't know of a single person in this country right now I would trust with that kind of power. But that is what George Washington had.

One of my favorite paintings, as I was telling the group from Tyler earlier today, from Grace Community Church, is the painting of Washington coming back in to the Continental Congress saying here is all the power back. Nobody had ever done that before.

This was a guy that had won the war. He had won the day. He was entitled to be called czar, emperor, dictator, pharaoh, whatever he wanted to be called.

Yet he came back in and, just as the resolution and the cover letter said, they knew he could be trusted. He came back in and said here is all the power back. It is yours. I am going back to Mount Vernon, and he did.

Some people don't realize just how brave he was. At the battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777, a young soldier wrote, and it is a recorded part of our history, "The sight of Washington set an example of courage such as I have never seen. I shall never forget what I felt when I saw him brave all the dangers of the field and his important life hanging as if it were by a single hair with a thousand deaths flying around him. Believe me, I thought not of myself." That is not a picture we see much these days.

Nathaniel Green wrote, "He will be the deliverer of his own country."

The Pennsylvania Journal wrote of Washington in 1777 as the revolution went on, "If Washington had been born in the days of idolatry, he would be worshipped as a god. If there are spots on his character, they are like the spots on the sun, only discernible by the magnifying powers of a telescope."

As David McCollough wrote, "Without Washington's leadership and unrelenting persistence, the Revolution almost certainly would have failed."

That is the kind of heritage we have. That is the kind of truthful, honest, courageous man that helped start this country and to whom we owe so much.

In conclusion, as our good friend and fellow Republican, we didn't know him personally, but God rest his soul, what a legacy, Abraham Lincoln, said in his second inaugural, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

God has blessed America. Mr. Speaker, it is my prayer that will continue.

I thank my good friend from Georgia for yielding to allow me to address those comments.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Thank you so much, Congressman GOHMERT, for bringing us those words and the inspiring stories of American history. You have highlighted one of my absolute favorites with Washington withstanding the onslaught of the attack and then meeting the Indian chief years later and the Indian chief telling him that he understood and knew and it was clear that Washington had been touched by the hand of God. That just is so inspiring when we hear those words.

Washington himself talked a lot about our Nation. He talked a lot about what it took to preserve the Nation. He was concerned that the Nation might have difficulty in the future, and he felt that the only way to keep our

Nation strong was on what he called teaching the science of government. He said a primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. By that he meant learning about government, learning about our republic.

He went on to say, "In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important and what duty more pressing than communicating or teaching it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of our country?"

That is why it is important that I think we come here this evening and talk about our heritage, talk about our history, talk about the wonder of America.

It has been said if you want to see the future of a nation and what it will be, look at what the children are being taught. So we hope by some small measure to assist in the education of all of us and to remind us about the wonder and the beauty and the awe of our Nation and its heritage.

I am joined now by Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT. Congresswoman SCHMIDT is a fellow freshman and an active participant in the Official Truth Squad. We are so pleased to have her join us this evening and bring some comments about our heritage and about the principles of our wonderful Republic.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Thank you so much.

Tonight, I really want to talk about what I believe freedom is all about. As we sit in this beautiful Chamber, we must be mindful that we are the luckiest people in the world to live in the greatest Nation in the universe.

So I stand here tonight on the floor of this great Chamber like thousands of Representatives before me as living proof that democracy works. I share the same love for my country as my 37 predecessors from the Ohio Second Congressional District. I am the 38th Member of Congress from my district and the first woman. And I may be the first to wear high heels, but I am not alone in my support of this great country and for all that it stands.

Our country was founded on the principles of freedom: freedom to pursue life, liberty and happiness; freedom to bear arms; freedom to voice your opinion in the market square, or in this very Chamber; freedom to print what you decide to be printed is fit to be printed.

Freedom is a wonderful thing. It is an infectious thing. Millions of the oppressed around the world yearn for this very thing called freedom: free from oppression, free from terror, free from tyranny. Freedom is a powerful drink. It spills 1 million people into the streets of downtown Beirut demanding to be free from the rule of Syria and its dictator. It causes men to take up arms against their oppressors on the streets of Baghdad and Kabul. Just the dream of freedom caused men and women to risk their lives by organizing opposition in places like Beijing and Havana.

□ 2300

Far too often we Americans take our freedom for granted. We forget about the heroes before us that gave us this right, this privilege, this ability.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." He knew, even as freedom was being brought to our new country, that our very freedom would be constantly at risk.

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it," said Thomas Paine. As we stand here tonight, the Official Truth Squad, surrounded by the glorious testament of our democracy and freedom, we must be mindful, mindful that democracy is on the march, mindful that 50 million people are newly free thanks to our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Let me repeat that. Fifty million people have the same opportunity that we have to taste and drink freedom, but most importantly, mindful that much more needs to be done. Tonight, the oppressed are dying at the hands of evil in far too many places around the world, in the camps of Darfur, in the jails of Havana, in political prisons in Asia.

Dwight David Eisenhower once said, "History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid. We did not choose to lead this fight, history has chosen us. Only we have the power needed to spread freedom. We indeed have been given the responsibility."

Our forefathers knew that when they were participating in this grand experiment so many years ago. We have been handed that torch. History will judge not what we say, but what we do.

I am honored to be here tonight to speak about this very important principle, because if we do not continue to lead this march, someone will come and take that torch from us.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak my mind in the greatest Nation, in the greatest chamber.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Thank you, Congresswoman SCHMIDT. It is just a pleasure to hear your words and the very inspiring words.

You talk about freedom being infectious. It truly is. But you also talked about freedom not being free, and that the price of freedom, the price of liberty, is eternal vigilance.

I am proud to stand with you this evening and continue, continue to try to assist others to appreciate the fact that that eternal vigilance is necessary now, as never before frankly.

So we appreciate so much your words this evening and your participation.

Mr. Speaker, I am also joined this evening by another fellow freshman, Congresswoman FOXX from North Carolina, just a great, great member of the freshman class, an individual whom I respect highly, who spent a number of years in the education community, understands what it means to impart the importance of our heritage, of American principles and fundamentals.

I welcome you this evening and look forward to your words.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Congressman PRICE. It is a real pleasure to be here tonight. I am grateful for the words of our colleagues earlier, Congressman GOHMERT and Congresswoman SCHMIDT. I appreciate what they have said, and you. I am really proud to be a part of the Official Truth Squad.

And while I did not hear all of the comments that were made just prior to our beginning our session here, I did want to respond to one thing that you said. That is that we all are entitled to our opinions, but the facts are the facts. And it is important that we get the facts straight here. And I think many of the things that we are responding to are things that have been purported to be facts which are not facts at all. And I think it is important that we set the record straight.

I also noted tonight in the presentation by the Blue Dog Coalition that they are very concerned about the deficit, but they want to do away with the tax cuts and spend more money.

The problem with the deficit is that we are spending too much, and we need to cut back on the spending. And that is a fundamental issue. I think it is pretty much a fundamental law of economics, which I do not think can be done away with simply by talking about it. I think that we are going to have to come to grips with it.

As our colleague from Ohio was saying, it is such a great honor to be able to serve in this House. And I want to say that I grew up in a house in western North Carolina with no electricity, no running water, about as poor as anybody you will ever meet. And it is a true miracle that someone with my background could come here and represent the 5th District of North Carolina. And I am in awe every day of the fact that I have this great opportunity and am grateful for it.

And I think about the way this country was formed, and I think it is important that we talk a little bit about that.

I am troubled that so few people even know the basis of our government. People do not know the Constitution. They do not know the basis of our laws. They do not know the history of this country. And I want to talk some more about that, but I know we are not going to have as much time tonight as we had thought we would originally, so I am going to make a recommendation of a couple of books which I think are wonderful books to read.

Anything by David McCullough is great. I know that he was being quoted earlier. I had a chance to read 1776 recently, which is the story of the first year of the revolution, and it is wonderful.

And tonight I was reviewing the *Founding Brothers* by Joseph Ellis. And he talks a lot about the things that came together to make the United States possible, to make the Revolution possible. And I do want to quote

one piece from Ellis, or maybe a couple of pieces from the book *Founding Brothers*. I do highly recommend it as something so easy to read.

But he said, No one had ever established a republican government on the scale of the United States. And the overwhelming judgment of the most respected authorities was that it could not be done.

Well, here we are over 200 years later proving that it can be done. But it is our job as representatives of the people to make sure that this wonderful experiment in liberty is sustained. And as, again, our colleague from Ohio said, it is a great honor to serve here.

And some people may not know this, and I think it is important to know, that the only way anybody can serve in the United States House of Representatives is to be elected. People can be appointed to every other office in the United States, but they cannot be appointed to serve in the United States House of Representatives. One must be elected, and we are elected every 2 years.

And I hope in this course of time, as we talk about the principles of this country, that we will do something that I do not think people do often enough, that is read the Constitution. I think it is helpful for us to reflect on the Constitution. And as we talk about the Truth Squad, I want to read two pieces from the Constitution tonight, and then turn it back to you, Mr. PRICE, to conclude our time here.

But I think so often even the Constitution itself is not quoted accurately. And I think that part of our job should be to remind the people what the Constitution says, and how it is the basis for everything else that we do.

Now I am going to read just the Preamble to the Constitution. And by the way, I borrowed this from the Parliamentarian. And I find it interesting that we tie back to Mr. Jefferson and the Founding Fathers. This is, in one manual, the Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

As I understand it, in almost every elected body in the United States, they go back to Jefferson's Manual when there is any dispute on whether the rules apply or not. And so I think the fact that we do that is a great tribute to again our Founding Fathers and particularly Mr. Jefferson and the care he took with these things.

Let me read the Preamble:

"We the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

I think that the key words for me here are "provide for the common defense." That is the role of the Federal government. That is the number one role of the Federal government. We do

want to promote the general welfare, but that is not the primary goal of the Federal government. It is to provide for the common defense.

Promoting the general welfare can be done in lots of different ways. And I have heard some people on the other side say we should change those words around and say, provide for the general welfare and promote the common defense. I think that that is one of the problems that we are having in our country these days.

And the other piece of the Constitution that I want to read tonight that I think is a part of tying back into our being the Official Truth Squad is amendment 1 to the Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

I find that in most days, when people want to quote the first amendment, they often quote that first phrase and leave out the second phrase. And I think that that is so important; I think it is a part of tying back again to the Truth Squad.

Many times you hear people quote, "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion," that says we should take the words "In God We Trust" off of our money, the words "Under God" out of our pledge. But what is so important is the second half of that sentence, "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Unfortunately, those who would take away our freedoms are the ones who so often leave off the second half of that phrase. And it is extremely important that we not distort the words of the Constitution. And it is important I think that our Truth Squad remind people of those words so often, and I think we need to do that.

I hope we will in our sharing things with the people talk more about the Constitution and how the truth of the Constitution itself has been distorted by some of our colleagues.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Thank you so much, Congresswoman FOXX. I tell you, it does my heart good to listen to your comments about the Constitution, about our Founding Fathers, and the kinds of things that they held dear.

I want to just highlight again that Preamble, the first line of the Preamble, "We the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union."

The Founding Fathers used these words to remind us that preserving the Constitution that they created is as difficult, maybe even more so, as writing and ratifying it in the late 1780s.

The words remind us that it is we the people that educate ourselves on the issues, become involved in choosing our leaders, and committed, those leaders, make sure the leaders are committed to governing by constitutional principles. And again the issues that we

face today are equally as dangerous as those that the Founders faced.

I wanted to highlight very briefly another document that is one of our founding documents, that is the Declaration of Independence. One of the early paragraphs in the Declaration I think crystallizes something that is incredibly important, we all know those words, but I think it is important to repeat them:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," and "that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Incredible, powerful words.

But the message here that I always harken back to is that the power that government has is derived from the people, because the people derive their power from the Almighty, and the power that people have they then cede to government. It is not the other way around.

□ 2315

We do not believe that government has power and gives it to people. We believe that people, because of the inherent power from the Almighty and because of the inherent quality of life, have that power and cede it to the Federal Government and to the State government to bring about the kind of things that Congresswoman FOXX talked about.

The founding of our Nation truly is tied to a reliance on a higher authority and everyone at the time knew that. We have gotten a bit away from that, and I think one of the things that is incumbent upon us as leaders is to make certain that we remember that and that we remind people of that and that we talk about it freely and openly make certain that everyone understands and appreciates the importance of the Almighty.

One of the items that I will close with that moves me so every time I read it is Lincoln's Proclamation for a National Day of Fasting and Prayer. There are a couple of portions of that that I find incredibly eloquent. I quote from the proclamation:

"It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence on the overruling power of God, and to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the holy scriptures and proven by all history that those nations only are blessed whose God is Lord.

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have

forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which has preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us. And we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

"Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended power and to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Mr. Speaker, we live in a wonderful and a wondrous Nation, a Nation that has blessed more individuals on the face of the Earth than any nation in the history of mankind. It is our privilege to serve in the United States House of Representatives and to bring this message of hope and optimism and positive speaking to the American people.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) is recognized for the time remaining before midnight, approximately 42 minutes.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, it is a great pleasure for me to lead this annual Special Order of the Congressional Black Caucus in honor of Black History Month. The theme for this year's African American history month is "Celebrating community, a tribute to black fraternal, social and civic institutions." And it is dedicated to exploring the impact that these civic organizations have had on the evolution of African American life and history.

A word or two about the history of Black History Month. The celebration of Black History Month started in 1926 as the vision of Dr. Carter G. Woodson who, out of frustration from not finding references to black history in any of our history books, launched an initiative to highlight the many outstanding contributions of African American people throughout the history of the United States. This year we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of Black History Month.

Initially, black history started off as a 1-week event during the second week of February because it marked the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced black people in this country, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. However, as time passed, it was clear that one week was not sufficient to highlight the achievements of black people and eventually the celebration became known as Black History Month.

Mr. Speaker, this year during Black History Month, we are celebrating the

institutions, fraternal, social, civic and religious, that have been so vital in our progress, the many national organizations and the community and grassroots organizations around the country that have been and continue to be the backbone of the African American community. Often times these organizations have stepped in when the Federal, State, and local governments have failed to provide the necessary services, and for that they are to be commended, most recently in the aftermath of the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have often said that Black History Month is about the future, a time to assess and acknowledge that there is no place for complacency and no time to rest. For that reason, the Congressional Black Caucus continues to focus its agenda and our efforts on closing and eliminating disparities that continue to exist in every aspect of our lives.

It is now my pleasure to recognize some of my colleagues to help us celebrate this Black History Month celebration. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me just commend Mr. WATT as chairman of our Congressional Black Caucus for providing leadership in this important celebration and observance of the great and extraordinary contributions that African Americans have made and continue to make in America and throughout the world.

No race of people has come through the ordeal and the circumstances of slavery, of Jim Crowism, of racism, of de facto segregation, and in spite of all these obstacles made extraordinary contributions in every field of endeavor: business, medicine, the arts, sports, politics, business.

Today we are here to highlight especially the role of fraternities in our community. Nowhere is that more particular than within the African American community, for the African American fraternities were brought about not as a result or a need for social edification or for frivolity; but those fraternities that came about in the African American community came about because of great need at a time of extraordinary struggle and circumstance within the African American community.

Such was the case with all of our fraternities and certainly with the fraternity that I am a member of, which is the first fraternity and the oldest fraternity, the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. I would like to spend just a few moments talking about this fraternity because this was the first fraternity, and its development exemplifies all fraternities and the importance of their contribution.

In 1905 in Ithica, New York, a group of African American students at Cornell were so devastated with the racism and prejudice at that institution that they found themselves in, that half of the six refused to come back in 1906;

but three did and others joined them in 1906 and they came together to form the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Seven African American men, seven African American men that we affectionately refer to as the 7 Jewels: Brother Callis and Brother Chapman and Brother Jones and Brother Kelley, Brother Murray, Brother Ogle, and Brother Tandy. Seven.

There is something about that number seven. That is God's number, the number of completeness. As we know, we had to march around the walls of Jericho 70 times. The Bible says you must forgive your neighbor 70 times 7. There are 7 days in the week; 7 holes in our head: nose, two eyes, two nostrils, two ears. Seven is completeness. And that is why I believe that these fraternities were God's gift at an important time that they came on the scene. Before the civil rights movement, before the others, these men formed the organization and came to produce some of the outstanding leaders in all fields. Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois and Thurgood Marshall were all members, as were Duke Ellington and Adam Clayton Powell and Martin Luther King, Jr. Scores and hundreds of leaders in every sphere and activity of life were there.

So as we celebrate Black History Month, let us celebrate it where it means the most. And if these members of our fraternity were here, they would say to us in their words, those very precious words that, well, my brothers and my sisters, you see, life for me ain't been no crystal stair. It's had tacks in it and splinters, boards torn up. No carpet on the floor, bare. But all the while, I's been a climbing on and reaching landings and turning corners, and sometimes going in the dark where there ain't been no light. So, boy, don't you stop. Don't you sit down on the steps because you finds it's kinda hard. Don't you fall now while I still going. I still climbing on, honey. And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

Life was no crystal stair for those who started our African American Greek fraternities and sororities. But because they had that vision to keep going, they made an impact on the lives of African Americans, on the lives of the people of the United States of America, and on the lives of the people of the world. On this Black History Month we are say thank you to our Greek letter organizations, the African American fraternities and sororities who have helped us so greatly.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOBBY SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina for organizing this Special Order so that we can give appropriate recognition to black fraternal, social, and civic organizations.

African Americans have been in the forefront of significant change in American society, and many of those leading the fight were members of very

distinguished organizations with the support of those organizations.

I share membership in Alpha Phi Alpha with my distinguished colleague from Georgia and six other Members of Congress. As my colleague mentioned, Alpha Phi Alpha was the first collegiate black fraternity. I am proud to be a long-time and life member of Alpha Phi Alpha. And since its founding in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha and all black fraternities and sororities have supplied a voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans and people of color around the world.

For example, one of the long-standing programs sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha is "Go to high school, go to college." Another is "A voteless people is a hopeless people." They encouraged education and voter registration. More recent projects for Alpha Phi Alpha is Project Alpha, promoting responsibility among African American males in all aspects of health care.

Before the formation of college fraternities, the very first African American fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi, was formed in 1904 in Philadelphia by a group of physicians and dentists. This organization was created for college and professionally educated African Americans including college presidents, Congressmen, cabinet members, and nationally prominent figures such as W.E.B. DuBois and Martin Luther King, Jr. I am also a member of Sigma Pi Phi.

□ 2330

There are countless other organizations that have existed for the purpose of improving economic status, spiritual well-being, and civil rights of all Americans. The Free African Society was founded in 1787; the National Negro Business League was founded in 1900; the National Afro-American Council in 1903; the Niagara Movement, the forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, was well under way by 1905.

The members of these and many other organizations have addressed the most serious moral challenges facing Americans today. The contribution of African American social and civic organizations has included everything from scholarships to social reconstruction. The members of these organizations have confronted the handicaps, the restrictions, the persecutions, the prejudices, the inequities in the opportunities faced by people of color.

Thanks to the relentless efforts of African American member organizations, there are more people of color today in corporate, Federal, State and municipal offices than ever before. The work of members of Alpha Phi Alpha, Sigma Pi Phi and other organizations has had a huge impact over the last 100 years, but our work is far from over.

In the 21st century, we will continue to work for political, economic and social change. It is imperative that all fraternal, social and civic organizations in the African American commu-

nity continue to provide service to African Americans as a whole and the United States in general.

Carter G. Woodson, known as the father of Black History, was born in Buckingham County, Virginia, to former slaves. He reminded us of the importance of commemorating African American contributions when he stated, "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

As we celebrate African American History Month, let us recognize the achievement and traditions of African Americans and let us never forget the members of black fraternal, social, and civic organizations that pursued uncharted paths and paid for the freedom that we hold so dear.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from North Carolina for organizing this Special Order so that we can recognize these organizations appropriately.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his eloquence, and let me just add a few comments while we are waiting for one other Member to come and join in this Special Order.

I actually tend to agree with one of our recent actors who started to question the whole concept of Black History Month, not because it is not important to all of us, but because the accomplishments of African Americans are so profound and so diffuse in every aspect of our lives that it is quite obvious that the same thing that happened with Black History Week, that we found that there just was not sufficient to do justice to those accomplishments, is now happening to Black History Month. A month is not sufficient to do justice to a discussion and an emphasis and a highlighting of those accomplishments.

So, as we continue to celebrate Black History Month, we should continue to recognize that Black History Week, which became Black History Month, in and of itself is a recognition that we simply have not done what we should be doing throughout our history to acknowledge the important contributions that African Americans have made.

We could spend hours here on the floor, had we the time, on any of the subjects which are the title of this Black History Month: black fraternities, African American sororities, social organizations, civic institutions, religious institutions. We could spend days talking about the sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha, which my wife happens to be a member of; Delta Sigma Theta; the Zetas. The whole list of sororities, they go on and on. Most of them sprang out of a need for service, a recognition that there were not social responsibilities, but civic and important unfinished business that needed to be attended to. Organizations of various kinds, headed by powerful women in our country, the Council of

Negro Women, I mean we could go on and on and on with the list of organizations, social and civic organizations, that have grown out of a need to emphasize and uplift the community so that perhaps what was previously referred to in the prior Special Order here, about the Preamble to the Constitution, really would be made a living, viable document, equality and justice for all. Many of these organizations sprang out of that.

We could spend a week, a month or two talking about the churches, the religious denominations, the AMEs, the AME, African Methodist Episcopal Zion denomination or the African Methodist Episcopal denomination, which formed because African American people either were not welcome in the white religious institutions or because those religious institutions were not providing the kind of freedom of expression or the level of equality. Even though they were talking the talk, they were not necessarily walking the walk throughout our history.

So all of these things are extremely important. Perhaps we do not do justice to any of them in the short period of time we have this evening, but we should never forget that all of them are extremely important.

Again, Black History Month is not only about reflecting on the past, it is about the challenges, the lack of equality that exists today that we must continue to confront going into the future. We should never lose sight of that.

With that, I see that my colleague from the great State of Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) has arrived, and so I will now yield to her for her expressions in this Black History Month Special Order.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for being enormously astute to ensure that there is a marker in the history pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that Members of Congress, and particularly Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, rose to ensure that we commemorated African American History.

There has been some controversy on this month over the years. Most recently, one of our more respected actors made mention of a very valuable point, that black history, African American history need not be commemorated in one month. In fact, it is American history, and I frankly agree with those words. I think it is important, however, that we take the opportunity to let others know that we have not forgotten.

In the course of reading and reviewing what remarks I might make this evening, I came across a very interesting book entitled, "The African American Bookshelf," that categorizes or catalogs, "50 Must Reads From Before the Civil War Through Today," and I wish to share briefly some of the words and stories in this book, but the first I would go to is of more recent vintage, which talks about COINTELPRO.

One would argue, how does that relate to the issue of African American history. The COINTEL was the counter-intelligence program, and it was the program utilized in the early parts of the civil rights movement, moving into the black student movement, the Black Panthers, and frankly, it was an effort focused on black activists who were perceived to be agitators, a small piece of African American history that was rarely focused on. In fact, Martin Luther King was the target of COINTELPRO, and rather than understand the movement and understand the voice of Dr. King, who spoke eloquently about nonviolence, this program was a program that ignored the value of the movement and viewed them as threats to America's security and democracy.

The COINTELPRO's treatment of Martin Luther King described, and detailed in the COINTELPRO paper, is the most egregious example in what was attempted in his case. It belongs in television fiction, where shadowy government forces are at work, that no one can discover ironically a conspiracy theory had been used all too often in such drama. In essence, Dr. King, in this instance, was considered an enemy of the State.

The issue of lynching as well plays a very large part in our history. I know that today we pay tribute to many of our civic organizations, sororities and fraternities and our organizations that captured the sentiment of African Americans, such as the NAACP, the Urban League, the many fraternities and sororities, 100 Black Men, the National Council of Negro Women, the Congress of Black Political Women, many organizations that have created a pathway for African Americans to walk across very troubled waters.

But we must also weed in and out of those very great historical perspectives of those organizations to know that they, too, lived alongside challenges like lynchings in the early 1900's, and in this book, it recounts the stories of what lynching actually meant. In fact, we have heard some people call it an act of terror. Why? Because it was an effort to terrorize southern blacks on plantations and in the rural south right after Reconstruction in order to stop the progress that had been made through reconstruction and in moving into the 20th century.

So, as we reflect on black history, it is important to look forward and then, of course, to travel down memory lane.

What I most want to say about our civic and civil and fraternities and sororities as organizations, I pay tribute to you because you are primarily the infrastructure of our community. When there is a need, these organizations are called upon. When there is a fight for social justice, these organizations are called upon. When, for example, we engage in a legislative strategy, such as the reauthorization of the Voter Rights Act, we call upon these civil and civil rights organizations to help formulate

the strategy and begin to ignite the excitement among the community to draw them together.

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Most recently, we have discovered a new phenomenon called the State of the Black Union, which was established by Tavis Smiley and is in its 7th year, another vehicle to capture the intellectual thought and the practices of not only the civil and civic organizations but also individual philosophers, academicians, physicians, and emerging leaders. I am very grateful that this last one was held in Houston, Texas.

I cite this because I believe more and more we must confront the theory that black history should not be relegated to one month; but, frankly, we should be engaged in the thinkings of our history all throughout the year and continue to press the envelope, if you will, that more and more curricula should be including black history.

And let me just say to you that what I have discovered over the recent years is that black history in our schools' curricula around America, African American history, is not moving up; it is being dumbed down. Some would say it is because of the cost cuts that many school districts have to make, that they are cutting music and cutting the arts and many times cutting athletics and that the teaching of black history has taken a back seat. We must be more than sensitized to the fact that there are young people today, no matter what their race or color, creed or religion, that are being educated in America's schools with no iota, no understanding whatsoever of this rich history of African Americans, not even the sense of our early slave history and how we first came to this country in bondage.

Many of the freedom fighters at that time, from Harriet Tubman to Nat Turner to Sojourner Truth, and the list of abolitionists, including Frederick Douglass, who established the framework of freedom, our children today are not learning about that particular history. That is much cause for pause. So I hope as Members of Congress rise to the floor of the House to commemorate the African American history here in America that we will also have a consciousness, as we have in the past, and that our voices will be heard that it is unacceptable that the teaching of black history is not on the upsurge, on the rise, but yet on the decline.

One of the issues, of course, that we hope will come out of the fact that we are commemorating African American history, is that respectively we will all be challenging our school districts and making an assessment of what children are learning because of the value, the importance, if you will, of learning that kind of history.

The idea of freedom also is an early idea, and I want to cite again some of the early freedom fighters, like Harriet Tubman. I have a little silver pin that is an F that stands for freedom. Harriet

Tubman was the conductor on the Underground Railroad. She has an enormously important story, and she is an exciting personality because she helped to free any number of escaped slaves. In fact, she escaped in the summer of 1849.

This was a time when America sold its soul for a cross of gold, even though William Jennings Bryan didn't make the expression famous for half a century later. True, there were white conductors of the Underground Railroad who gave their lives to see to it that black people were able to trickle out of slavery, but Harriet Tubman took this to heart. She became the general, General Tubman, who guided frightened slaves into freedom in the North. She did this continuously over and over and over again.

I have read previously that when a slave was too frightened to go forward, she threatened that slave with his or her life: you die here or you go to freedom. So she was a strong personality that really captured the spirit of African Americans. Through all kinds of trials and tribulations, we have overcome the obstacles that have faced us.

We now come upon the 21st century, and we have two important struggles right before us. One of those struggles includes the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and I think it is imperative that we energize the populace, all walks of life, to begin to raise their voices in support of the work of this Congress, the good work of this Congress to move forward and reauthorize the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Then we have, in conclusion, one of the most challenging mountains to climb: to be able to heal and to bring back to normalcy the gulf region. That will be a smear on the pages of America's history in how that community and those communities were treated and how they are being treated. So it will go down in the pages of black history, because as we know, the faces of the individuals being shown during Hurricane Katrina were African Americans.

We have challenges to go forward; but as we go forward in our challenges to make their lives better, to pass omnibus bill H.R. 4197, work done by the Congressional Black Caucus to make the Katrina survivors whole with housing, education, the environment, compensation and the right to return, we must do it in the backdrop of the history of a people who never turned away from suffering, never turned away from trials and tribulations, and never turned away from challenges.

We have a history to stand upon. It is a history that America should cherish, and we should continue to honor it at the same time that we teach our children. And, frankly, I believe that if we are to embrace the history of all people, we will make America a better place to live.

With that, I yield back to the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representative DAVID SCOTT from Georgia, Representative BOBBY SCOTT from Virginia, and Representative JACKSON-Lee from Texas. There were a number of our Members who would have loved to have participated in this Special Order this evening. Unfortunately, it turned out that we were the fourth Special Order of the evening, and it is approaching midnight so they are not here.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to honor the memory of all of our great heroes and heroes that have gone before, our organizations, our civic fraternities, sororities, churches who have contributed so much to our progress, but also recognize that there are many miles to go before we sleep.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, our nation's history is interwoven with the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans—from Hank Aaron, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong to George Washington Carver, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Maya Angelou—and because of their efforts our nation is stronger. The African American community recently lost two of its leaders and as we mourn the passing of Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King, we should be reminded that we must continue the civil rights work they devoted their lives to. What better way to celebrate the legacy of these leaders and all of those who have worked to ensure racial justice than by reauthorizing the expiring portions of the Voting Rights Act. The struggle for civil rights continues today and we must make certain that all citizens not only have the right to vote, but that their ability to vote is protected.

Although the Voting Rights Act has been essential in protecting the voting rights of minorities, additional safeguards are necessary to ensure that every citizen is included in the election process. I remain committed to furthering the causes of the Civil Rights Movement and will work hard in the coming months to guarantee the right to vote for every citizen. I hope that this month we will celebrate the lives of all of the strong and determined men and women who have worked to ensure equality for all Americans.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, celebrating Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect upon the innumerable contributions that Blacks have made to the advancement of American society and culture. People of color whether from the homeland in Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America or North America, they have been more than instrumental in shaping the social complexion of America and humanity.

It was Carter G. Woodson in 1926 who initiated "Negro History Week" in the United States to promote "a better understanding of the contributions" of Blacks to human civilization. This noble effort 80 years ago has been successful in informing people all over the world about the numerous contributions of Blacks. It has also aided in reshaping and negating distortions that historians have in many cases intentionally promulgated. Black History Month continues to amplify accurate depictions and narratives about a myriad of global endeavors. These undertakings have drastically improved the daily lives and landscape of the world.

Individuals such as Pianky, the military genius and Black King of Nubia who conquered

Egypt around 700 BC; Antar, the African-Arabian poet and story teller; and Abram Hannibal, the soldier and commander of 18th century Russia to Chaka who led South Africa until his assassination in 1828 all exemplify and indicate historic contributions to society. "Their presence and deeds underscore an essential reality: Blacks have been part and parcel of world history, from exploration and revolution to scientific and other achievements."

Other notable achievements encompass pioneering the making of iron, valuable works of art, carved stones into historic ornaments and statues, the conversion of oil-bearing plants for both medical and dietary purposes. Early contributions also include developing cereal and transformation of a wild plant into cotton which led to the art of weaving. Additionally, people of color are among the earliest farmers who produced wheat, groundnuts, yams and watermelon.

Other accomplishments within the past 150 years, include performing the first open heart surgery, produced scientific evidence of cell life and metabolism, pioneered in blood plasma preservation, invented the inhalers used by rescue workers at disaster sites, created communication devices that allowed conversations between fast moving trains, invented machines that allowed for the mass production of shoes and improved the efficiency of lubricating systems used in large industry today.

This impressive list is not exhaustive of all the global contributions of people of color. However, it illustrates the vital contributions to America and the world. As we think about democracy in this country, people of color have been at the fore in pursuing "A more perfect Union." Consider Rosa Parks who refused to give up her seat on a bus, which sparked the Montgomery County Bus Boycott and the Civil Rights Movement. Also, it would be hard to think about American Democracy without Martin Luther King Jr. and his leadership and dream to bring the ideals of democracy into reality for all Americans.

In his 1970 essay, "What America Would Be Like Without Blacks," Ralph Ellison argued that "Whatever else the true American is, he is somehow Black."

[CaribEditorial, Feb. 7, 2006]

IMPORTANT ROLE OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

The name Dr. G. Carter Woodson means little to most Americans, West Indians or Africans. Indeed, only a minority of people in Virginia, Woodson's birthplace, ever heard of the former coal miner who graduated high school at the age of 21 years, but later earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1912, around the time when thousands of West Indians, especially Jamaicans and Barbadians, were immigrating to Panama to help build the world-famous canal.

But, as more and more people, Black and White in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Africa, and elsewhere observe Black History Month, they are learning that it was Dr. Woodson who initiated "Negro History Week" in 1926 in the U.S. to promote "a better understanding of the contributions" of Blacks to human civilization.

Woodson's fledgling effort 80 years ago has since become an international phenomenon, one in which millions of people, Black and White, observe Black History Month. Caribbean and African nations may have joined the observances a bit late, but we believe in the old adage better late than never.

For, in the process, Black History Month is helping to shape our thinking and negate the

destructive effects of historiographies, which either deliberately distorted or ignored the positive roles of Black people in almost every aspect of life on the planet.

Clearly, time has proven Dr. Woodson right.

Undoubtedly, Black History Month is bringing to the fore important and accurate narratives about the multifaceted chapters Blacks have written in advancing global human development.

From their ancestral homeland in Africa to North America, the Caribbean, Latin America, and other parts of the world, people of color have been instrumental in improving the daily lives of human beings everywhere.

Names that run the gamut from Pianky, the military genius and Black King of Nubia who conquered Egypt around 700 BC; Antar, the African-Arabian poet and storyteller; and Abram Hannibal, the soldier and commander of 18th century Russia to Chaka who led and forged the proud Black nation of South Africa until his assassination in 1828 dot the pages of history.

Their presence and deeds underscore an essential reality: Blacks have been part and parcel of world history and were present from exploration and revolution to scientific and other achievements.

Blacks from Africa pioneered in the making of iron, fashioned precious stones into historic ornaments, statues, and valuable works of art; and used oil-bearing plants for both medicinal and dietary purposes. The developed cereal and transformed a wild plant into cotton, thus opening up the world to the art of weaving. They were among the world's first farmers, producing wheat, groundnuts, yams, watermelons, and possibly coffee.

In the past 150 years, Black inventors and pioneers created the key devices that perfected the overall lubrication systems used in large industry today; invented the lasting machine that revolutionized the mass production of shoes; created the means to communicate between fast-moving trains; came up with the inhalators used by rescuers at sites where disasters have occurred; performed the first successful open-heart surgery; produced scientific evidence of cell life and metabolism; and pioneered in blood plasma preservation, more commonly called blood banks.

These are but a handful of the exploits of Blacks, deeds which were previously shunted aside but have since been recognized through the study of history by and of Blacks. Along the way that historical record gained prominence in books, scholarly papers and presentations in classrooms, libraries, newspaper and magazine columns, and in special radio and television programs.

If knowledge is power, then it stands to reason that we in the United States, the Caribbean and Africa have much to gain from the information and the results of academic and scientific inquiry, which Black History Month and other observances inspire.

People everywhere owe Woodson a debt of gratitude for his pioneering action that effectively promoted the institutionalization of Black History as an academic discipline and as a vehicle that has made us all aware of the truth of the valuable contributions of Blacks to international development.

He was driven to act because he complained in the 1930s that while white historians used textbooks to persuade students and others that Blacks couldn't "subject passion to reason," they failed to teach them the authentic stories of African achievement.

Dr. Woodson argued, quite correctly, that the knowledge of "real history" would liberate people of African descent from mental slavery and inspire to demand social equal-

ity while upsetting the "oppressor in America and the colonizer in Africa." Add the Caribbean to that equation and the international scope of his efforts would become clear.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, every February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. This tribute dates back to 1926 and is credited to a Harvard scholar named Carter G. Woodson. The son of former slaves, Woodson dedicated his life to ensuring that black history was accurately documented and disseminated. In an effort to bring national attention to the contributions of black Americans, Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February in honor of the birthdays of pivotal black supporters Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. From Jackie Robinson to Tiger Woods, Harriet Tubman to Barack Obama, Black History Month pays tribute to inspirational African Americans from the past, as well as those who will continue to make history well into the future.

For 1 month, people of African descent in America are recognized for their contributions. The irony of recognizing and paying tribute to people of African descent in America is that we are recognizing all people of the Earth. Africa represents all people of the world. Every person born since creation, every person alive today, and every person born in the future was, is, and will be of African descent. The gift Africa has provided the world is humanity and civilization.

Be that as it may, Black History has been presented and accepted as a fragmented afterthought. It is celebrated for 1 month and/or mentioned with a couple of lines in a text or Social Studies course outline. In most instances, the references begin with slavery and end with the Civil Rights Era and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A question I ask high school students is, "What were slaves before they became slaves?" Their response, 90 percent of the time, is "nothing." It appears many of our youth believe their ancestors fell out of the sky as slaves.

Black History is world history. Old and new research on Africa and its place in human history has proved that Africa is the birthplace of mankind and was, for many centuries, in the forefront of human progress. African or Black History must be looked at anew and seen in its relationship to world history as only the history of the first and second rise of Europe. Yet, the history of Africa was already old when Europe was born. Until quite recently, it was rather generally assumed, even among well-educated persons in the West, that the continent of Africa was a great expanse of land, mostly jungle, inhabited by savages and fierce beasts. It was not realized that great civilizations could have existed there, or that great kings could have ruled there in might and wisdom over vast empires. Today, many of us, as the descendants of queens and kings of Africa, refuse to identify with the Motherland of all people. We begin with 1619 and slavery. We identify with 370 years of physical and mental bondage as opposed to three thousands years of uninterrupted civilizations. Our story is everyone's story. Our story begins with the worshipping of one God, builders of the pyramids, and builders of the first cities and universities.

To reverse our fall from being builders of pyramids to project dwellers; to reverse our fall from being controllers of our own destiny

to caretakers of someone else's destiny; and to reverse our unraveling as a whole people will necessitate knowing who we are and what we represent. Our future as a people, community, and world is related to the past. Back to the future—Black History not for a month, but for a lifetime!

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order today related to Black History Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. HINCHEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and March 1 on account of illness.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mrs. BIGGERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. OSBORNE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. ROHRBACHER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. KING of Iowa, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, March 1 and 2.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 1.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 1 and 2.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today and March 1 and 2.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and March 1.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today and March 1 and 2.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today and March 1 and 2.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, March 1.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 4745. An act making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on February 17, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 4745. Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 1, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6290. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting requests

for FY 2006 supplemental appropriations for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Veterans Affairs, the Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the General Services Administration and the Small Business Administration; (H. Doc. No. 109-89); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6291. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for FY 2006 supplemental appropriations for ongoing military and intelligence operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and selected other international activities; (H. Doc. No. 109-90); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6292. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the required report on the Warranty Claims Recovery Pilot Program, pursuant to Public Law 105-85, section 391; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6293. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6294. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the T700-GE-401 and -401C Turbo-shaft engines are commercial items and, therefore, are excluded from core logistics capability requirements, as well as the justification for such a decision, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2464(c); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6295. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General David W. Barno, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6296. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report pursuant to Pub. L. 106-569; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6297. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the annual report on the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program, as required by Section 101(i) of Chapter 1 of Pub. L. 106-51; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6298. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the annual report on the Emergency Oil and Gas Guaranteed Loan Program as required by Section 201(h) of Chapter 2 of Pub. L. 106-51; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6299. A letter from the Acting Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a draft of the legislation necessary to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6300. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting reports in accordance with Section 36(a) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6301. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting reports in accordance with Section 36(a) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6302. A letter from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the audit

of the American Red Cross for the financial year ending June 30, 2005, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 300110; to the Committee on International Relations.

6303. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that effective December 11, 2005, the 15% Danger Pay Allowance for Dushanbe, Tajikistan was terminated based on improved security conditions, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5928; to the Committee on International Relations.

6304. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6305. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report including matters relating to the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291-4; (H. Doc. No. 109-91); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

6306. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the FY 2005 annual report on Military Assistance, Military Exports, and Military Imports for Fiscal Year 2005, as required by Section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as enacted 10 February 1996, by Section 1324 of Pub. L. 104-106, and 21 July 1996, by Section 148 of Pub. L. 104-164; to the Committee on International Relations.

6307. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6308. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6309. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a copy of the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) management report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6310. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the 2006 Federal Financial Management Report as required by the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act of 1990, marking the 14th report submitted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the government-wide status of financial management, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6311. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting a draft of a joint resolution entitled, "Approving the location of a Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial in the Nation's Capital."; to the Committee on Resources.

6312. A letter from the Director, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Equal Access to Justice Act in Agency Proceedings (RIN: 1094-AA49) received February 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6313. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting a copy of the report entitled, "Comprehensive Inventory of U.S. OCS Oil and Natural Gas Resources" as required by Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Resources.

6314. A letter from the Deputy Chief for National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the 2004 Report to Congress for Granite Watershed Enhancement and Protection Stewardship Project, pursuant to Public Law 105-821; to the Committee on Resources.

6315. A letter from the Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the 2005 report on the Apportionment of Membership on the Regional Fishery Management Councils pursuant to section 302 (b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; to the Committee on Resources.

6316. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Little League Baseball, transmitting the Annual Report of Little League Baseball, Incorporated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1084(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6317. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "To amend the Railroad Retirement Act to provide for continued payment of railroad retirement annuities by the Department of the Treasury and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6318. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of his intention to designate Liberia as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), pursuant to Public Law 104-188, section 1952(a)(110 Stat. 1917); (H. Doc. No. 109-92); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

6319. A letter from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report on supplementary views from the agricultural policy and technical advisory committees (Grains, Feed and Oilseeds; Processed Foods; Sweeteners; and Tobacco, Cotton and Peanuts) on the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6320. A letter from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the reports of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, and the policy, sectoral and functional trade committees chartered under those Acts, on the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, pursuant to Section 2104(e) of the Trade Act of 2002 and Section 135(e) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6321. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 2006-8] received January 20, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6322. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Designated Roth contributions to cash or deferred arrangements under section 401(k) [TD 9237] (RIN: 1545-BE05) received January 4, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6323. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Procedure Updates (Rev. Proc. 2006-7) received January 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6324. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Time for Filing Employment Tax Returns

and Modifications to the Deposit Rules [TD 9239] (RIN: 1545-BE00) received January 4, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6325. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revision of Income Tax Regulations under sections 367, 884, and 6038B dealing with statutory mergers or consolidations under section 368(a)(1)(A) involving one or more foreign corporations, and guidance necessary to facilitate business electronic filing under section 6038B [TD 9243] (RIN: 1545-BA65) received January 26, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6326. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Allocation and Apportionment of Expenses Alternative Method for Determining Tax Book Value of Assets [TD 9247] (RIN: 1545-BF23) received January 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6327. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Clarification of Definitions [TD 9246] (RIN: 1545-BD37) received January 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6328. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Last-in, First-out Inventories (Rev. Rul. 2006-6) received January 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6329. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Escrow Funds and Other Similar Funds [TD 9249] (RIN: 1545-AR82) received February 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6330. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Residence Rules Involving U.S. Possessions [TD 9248] (RIN: 1545-BC86) received February 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6331. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Announcement of rules adopting a reasonable cause standard for section 1503(d) filings [Notice 2006-13] received February 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6332. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Redemption Bogus Optional Basis Tax Shelter (UIL No: 9300.42-00) received February 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6333. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Extension of June 28, 2005, Safe Harbor Date [Notice 2006-15] received February 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6334. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous (Rev. Proc. 2006-16) received February 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6335. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule

— Recomputed Differential Earnings Rate for Mutual Life Insurance Companies [Notice 2006-18] received February 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6336. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 2006-19] received February 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6337. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Electricity Produced From Certain Renewable Resources (Rev. Rul. 2006-9) received February 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6338. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Appeals Settlement Guidelines: Notional Principal Contracts (UIL No. 9300.20-00) received February 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6339. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tax Avoidance Using Notional Principal Contracts [Notice 2006-16] received February 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6340. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Postponement of Deadline for Making an Election to Deduct Certain Losses Attributable to Hurricane Katrina, Rita, and Wilma [Notice 2006-17] received February 22, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6341. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Rev. Rul. 2006-10) received February 22, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6342. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Clean Renewable Energy Bonds [Notice 2006-7] received February 22, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6343. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of Section 367 in Cross Border Section 304 Transactions; Certain Transfers of Stock Involving Foreign Corporations [TD 9250] (RIN: 1545-BD46) received February 22, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6344. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Work Activity of Persons Working as Members of Advisory Committees Established Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (RIN: 0960-AG07) received January 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6345. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Cardiovascular Impairments (RIN: 0960-AD48) received January 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6346. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Representation of Parties; Recognition, Disqualification, and Reinstatement of Representative (RIN: 0960-AG15) received January 11, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BARTON of Texas: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4167. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-379). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

REPORTED BILLS SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1071. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to make incentive payments to the owners or operators of qualified desalination facilities to partially offset the cost of electrical energy required to operate such facilities, and for other purposes; with an amendment, (Rept. 109-380, Pt. 1); Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period ending not later than March 31, 2006, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(f), rule X Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois (for himself, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. KIRK, Mr. EMANUEL, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WELLER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MANZULLO, Ms. BEAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. HYDE):

H.R. 4805. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 North Quincy Street in Clinton, Illinois, as the "Gene Vance Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 4806. A bill to prohibit defense contractors from requiring licenses or fees for use of military likenesses and designations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr.

GOHMERT, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. HOLT, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNUITY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEY, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCARELLI, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 4807. A bill to require an investigation under the Defense Production Act of 1950 of the acquisition by Dubai Ports World of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, International Relations, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 4808. A bill to prohibit the importation of motor vehicles of the People's Republic of China until the tariff rates that China imposes on motor vehicles of the United States are equal to the rates of duty applicable to motor vehicles of the People's Republic of China under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 4809. A bill to amend the provisions of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, commonly referred to as the Paperwork Reduction Act, to ensure usability and clarity of information disseminated by Federal agencies, and to facilitate compliance with Federal paperwork requirements; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 4810. A bill to amend the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 relating to Academic Competitiveness Grants to preserve State authority over secondary school curricula; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr.

HASTERT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BAKER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DENT, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DREIER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr.

GERLACH, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HALL, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HERGER, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HYDE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LEACH, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. MACK, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MICA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBEY, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. PASCARELLI, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PORTER, Mr. REGULA, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SAXTON, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. SODREL, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida):

H.R. 4811. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 215 West Industrial Park Road in Harrison, Arkansas, as the "John Paul Hamerschmidt Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HOLDEN):

H.R. 4812. A bill to provide greater accountability in reviewing the national security considerations of free trade agreements; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mr.

THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. BONO, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WU, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. WOLF, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky):

H.R. 4813. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to improve national security and clarify congressional intent with respect to the review process for certain mergers and acquisitions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey:

H.R. 4814. A bill to amend section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to suspend all proposed mergers, acquisitions, or takeovers

by foreign persons until certain determinations are made; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GILLMOR:

H.R. 4815. A bill to establish a National Sex Offender Risk Classification Task Force to create guidelines for the establishment of a risk-based sex offender classification system for use in sex offender registries; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAYWORTH:

H.R. 4816. A bill to amend chapter 27 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the unauthorized construction of tunnels between the United States and another country; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAYWORTH:

H.R. 4817. A bill to prohibit entities owned or controlled by foreign governments from carrying out operations at seaports in the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HEFLEY:

H.R. 4818. A bill to establish the South Park National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. LEACH:

H.R. 4819. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit nonparty multicandidate political committees from making contributions in support of campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 4820. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to strengthen the requirements relating to investigations under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, International Relations, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. HINCHAY):

H.R. 4821. A bill to amend section 10501 of title 49, United States Code, to exclude solid waste disposal from the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 4822. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to permit development of necessary technology to reduce energy demand through more efficient torchiere lighting; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VISCLOSKEY (for himself and Mr. EMANUEL):

H.R. 4823. A bill to establish a United States-Poland parliamentary youth exchange program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Ms. HARMAN:

H.J. Res. 79. A joint resolution disapproving the results of the review conducted by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) into the purchase of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation (P&O) by Dubai Ports World (DP

World); to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H. Con. Res. 348. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to accomplishing the mission in Iraq; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HYDE (for himself and Mr. LANTOS):

H. Res. 697. A resolution congratulating the people and Government of Italy, the Torino Olympic Organizing Committee, the International Olympic Committee, the United States Olympic Committee, the 2006 United States Olympic Team, and all international athletes upon the successful completion of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. KNOLLENBERG:

H. Res. 698. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HOLT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. OTTER, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 699. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Entrepreneurship Week and encouraging the implementation of entrepreneurship education programs in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education through the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. WEXLER):

H. Res. 700. A resolution supporting an upgrade in Israel's relationship with NATO to that of a leading member of NATO's Individual Cooperation Program, as a first step toward Israel's inclusion in NATO as a full member with all corresponding rights, privileges, and responsibilities; to the Committee on International Relations.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 23: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 25: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 30: Mr. NEY and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 87: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. Pascrell, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 110: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 115: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 198: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 282: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, and Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 303: Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 363: Mr. WYNN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. REYES.

H.R. 398: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 500: Mr. ISTOOK and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 515: Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 550: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.

H.R. 552: Mr. JENKINS and Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 561: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 615: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Ms. HART.

H.R. 633: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 769: Mr. EVANS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 857: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 865: Mr. TANCREDO.

H.R. 874: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 880: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota and Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 884: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. SALAZAR.

H.R. 898: Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. WALSH.

H.R. 986: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 998: Mr. GOHMERT and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1002: Mr. CARDIN and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1053: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. MCKEON.

H.R. 1100: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1188: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Ms. MCKINNEY.

H.R. 1249: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. WELLER.

H.R. 1258: Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 1259: Mr. MURPHY and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H.R. 1288: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 1290: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 1322: Mr. WYNN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MURTHA, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1323: Mr. WYNN and Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 1330: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1357: Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Miss McMORRIS, Mr. BONNER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. Fortuño, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 1375: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1418: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1424: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1431: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1462: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1558: Mrs. MCCARTHY.

H.R. 1578: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. ORTIZ, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. TANCREDO.

H.R. 1591: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1607: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H.R. 1621: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 1690: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.

H.R. 1696: Mr. SWEENEY.

H.R. 1704: Ms. HART.

H.R. 1709: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1951: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. AKIN, Ms. CARSON, Mr. TURNER, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1955: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 1957: Mr. BASS.

H.R. 2048: Ms. CARSON and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2063: Mr. PUTNAM and Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 2178: Ms. MCKINNEY.

H.R. 2206: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 2317: Mr. POE.

H.R. 2369: Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Ms. WATSON, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. POE, Mr. JONES of North

Carolina, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. TANNER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. KUHLM of New York, Mr. FORD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. PUTNAM, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. PETRI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. PICKERING, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. SCHIFF, of New Mexico, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. GILLMOR.

H.R. 2421: Mr. WYNN, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mrs. MCCARTHY.

H.R. 2471: Mr. FORD.

H.R. 2488: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 2521: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 2534: Mr. HEFLEY.

H.R. 2553: Ms. DELAURIO.

H.R. 2561: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 2568: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 2669: Mr. CASTLE.

H.R. 2679: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, and Mr. TANCREDO.

H.R. 2684: Mr. KUHLM of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CASE, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. SAXTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 2716: Mr. KIND and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2717: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 2719: Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 2727: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 2788: Mr. MURTHA.

H.R. 2872: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. REHBERG, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GINGREY, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3038: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 3063: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 3145: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 3189: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 3248: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. KIND, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BONNER, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 3255: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 3307: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 3352: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 3361: Mr. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 3427: Mr. SAXTON.

H.R. 3476: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 3478: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 3547: Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 3590: Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 3616: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3639: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 3658: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 3734: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 3762: Ms. Linda T. Sanchez of California and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3779: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3837: Mr. STARK and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 3883: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 3962: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 3964: Ms. MCKINNEY.

H.R. 3973: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4005: Mr. PLATTS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. DENT, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4019: Mr. TANNER, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SOUDER, and Ms. HART.

H.R. 4023: Ms. HERSETH, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. FORD, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 4025: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 4026: Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 4059: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. SANDERS.

H.R. 4158: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4166: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 4188: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. FORD.

H.R. 4197: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HOYER, and Ms. SOLIS.

H.R. 4211: Mr. RUSH and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H.R. 4229: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. OLVER, and Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 4259: Mr. REYES.

H.R. 4298: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 4341: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. RENZI.

H.R. 4384: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 4398: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 4422: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.

H.R. 4452: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 4479: Mr. TIERNEY and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 4493: Mr. ORTIZ.

H.R. 4517: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. FEENEY.

H.R. 4542: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SABO, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4546: Mr. WALSH.

H.R. 4547: Mr. PICKERING, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CANNON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 4597: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SULIVAN, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 4621: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BOYD, and Mr. POE.

H.R. 4623: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 4672: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 4673: Mr. LEACH.

H.R. 4677: Mr. DENT.

H.R. 4681: Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. SHAW, Mr. BONNER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. FORD, and Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 4685: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 4695: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCKINNEY, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 4696: Mr. DENT.

H.R. 4708: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 4725: Mr. PAUL, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. COBLE, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.

H.R. 4729: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 4736: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 4737: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 4747: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. SOLIS.

H.R. 4749: Mr. SKELTON and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 4755: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. POE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CLAY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. LEE, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. KLINE, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. DICKS, Ms. HART, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SABO, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 4761: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, and Mr. CANTOR.

H.R. 4772: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 4774: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. KIRK.

H.R. 4778: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 4793: Mr. BASS, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. WALSH, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. KIND, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. SWEENEY, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4800: Mr. STUPAK.

H.J. Res. 3: Mr. BEAUPREZ.

H.J. Res. 16: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.J. Res. 67: Mr. NORWOOD.

H.J. Res. 78: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mrs. EMERSON.

H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.

H. Con. Res. 172: Mr. FORD and Mr. WEXLER.

H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. DEGETTE.

H. Con. Res. 318: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Con. Res. 320: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. WEXLER.

H. Con. Res. 335: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. SANDERS.

H. Con. Res. 336: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. GORDON.

H. Con. Res. 338: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. WELLER.

H. Con. Res. 340: Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WU, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Con. Res. 343: Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Con. Res. 346: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. WELLER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. BONNER.

H. Res. 85: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mrs. EMERSON.

H. Res. 526: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. WICKER.

H. Res. 556: Ms. MCKINNEY.

H. Res. 589: Ms. HART.

H. Res. 608: Mr. GORDON and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 638: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINCHBY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of

Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WATT, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H. Res. 641: Mr. OWENS.

H. Res. 643: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. MICHAUD.
H. Res. 645: Ms. LEE.

H. Res. 647: Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 658: Mr. REYES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FARR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LEE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 672: Mr. FALCONE.

H. Res. 673: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. WELLER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. BEAN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr.

EVANS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. TERRY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. HULSHOF, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H. Res. 675: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Res. 677: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FORD, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Ms. WATERS.

H. Res. 691: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 693: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CLEAVER.